

Hafa Adai!

PSS teachers receive summer pay. **PAGE 4**

Man gets 15 years in prison for sex abuse of minor. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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TORRES TO TRUMP:

'CNMI in stable position to resume economic activity'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

“The CNMI is in a stable position to resume economic activity.”

Thus said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a letter to U.S. President Donald J. Trump, pointing out that resuming international flights is the key to restarting the Commonwealth economy.

See RESUME on Page 4



SOLAR ECLIPSE

The sun is seen through rain clouds during solar eclipse in New Delhi, India, Sunday, June 21, 2020. The partial eclipse was also visible in the CNMI near sunset.

AP

New dos and don'ts at airport

» **Persons dropping off passengers now barred from entering terminal**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Effective last Thursday, persons dropping off passengers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport

are no longer allowed to enter the terminal. If goodbyes have to be made, do it at the parking lot. That is just one of the “new normal” rules at the airport as part of the action plan

See NEW on Page 4

IN MIDST OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

How will the CNMI vote?

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With just a little more than five months before the November elections, more and more politicians are now demanding to know how the Commonwealth Elections Commission

See HOW on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 21, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	193	7	200
Recovered	170	3	173
Active	15	7	22
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			9,821

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	5	0	5
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**			8,169

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. As the CNMI moves into village-based testing, the total of cumulative number of persons tested remains the same for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Fire engulfs acres in Papago

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A brush fire torched several acres of vegetation in the Papago area yesterday, with the fire spreading to the Evergreen area.

The fire, which was called in to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services at around 10:02am, was still going on as of 5pm press time yesterday.

See FIRE on Page 4

A cloud of smoke billows from a mountain fire on Saipan on Sunday, June 21.

KRIZEL TUAZON

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Kinpachi Restaurant is slowly emerging from the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PAGE 13



NATION

President Donald Trump's supporters faced off with protesters last Saturday in Tulsa.

PAGE 14



WORLD

Brazil has risen above 1 million coronavirus cases, second only to the United States.

PAGE 16



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MASS FOR GRADUATES

In these photos taken from the Mount Carmel School's homepage on Instagram and Facebook, the school's graduates had their baccalaureate Mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral on Friday, June 19, a day before the in-person graduation itself last Saturday, June 20. The school was able to hold an in-person graduation after working with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and following several safety protocols, including social distancing rules. The graduates received their diplomas on Saturday, making MCS the first school on Saipan to have a high school graduation ceremony.

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL



'Pandemic pause is good time to spruce up tourist spots'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Broken bathrooms, broken railings, and graffiti have turned many of the CNMI's tourist hot spots into eyesores but the lack of tourists right now due to the COVID-19

pandemic is the perfect time for the CNMI to fix things up and the Marianas Visitors Authority board wants to take advantage of this moment.

Although nothing is official yet, MVA board members agreed at their meeting last week that the maintenance and

repairs would include repairing broken restrooms, rails, fencing for cows, and more and have set aside \$100,000 for this purpose.

Jerry Tan, MVA board member and TanHoldings president, said the best time to fix tourist sites is now since there are no tourists at the moment. Additionally, he thinks that although MVA isn't in a position to do anything new for the tourist sites, it's best to go out and do as much as they can to beautify what's already there.

"I think we definitely should go out and do as much as we can, so that when the tourists [finally] come back," said Tan, "if they're a first-timer or a repeater, that will be a pleasant surprise."

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce lauded the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for doing a "very good job" of maintaining yardwork at tourist sites but she cites untethered cows as a problem.

MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo suggested visiting each site, doing an assessment, and then providing feedback if there're fixtures that needs to be done.

Warren Villagomez, who is an MVA board member and chairman of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, endorsed Tan's suggestion to re-

vive tourist spots. "We should start small, and do things now. We should take advantage of the situation we're in," said Villagomez. "There's quite a few of our agencies that are not full 100% back to where they're supposed to be, so we can ask the administration to support us."

Tan added that the CNMI should expect travel demand not to be anywhere close to normal, so there's time to fix tourist spots. "We have time. It's not just between now and the first [international] flight," said Tan. "We're going to get the minimum number of arrivals to begin with, and then gradually increase." He added that even if there are very few tourists after the reopening of the CNMI, it's still a good time to fix what needs to be fixed.

Additionally, MVA board member Chris Nelson said that beach showers would be a win-win not only for tourists but island residents as well. Nelson added that not a lot of money would be spent for the showers, that creating the showers is the easy part but funding the water and having the maintenance done is something they would have figure out.

"We have freshwater where people can clean up their kids and tourist can go on and clean up before they get in their car. It'll be a big win for us," said Nelson.

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PSS allocates funds to hire part-time nurses

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has set aside a portion of the funds that it received from the Education Stabilization Fund under the federal law enacted in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic to hire part-time nurses for each campus in the CNMI for the upcoming school year.

According to Tim Thornburgh, PSS Federal Programs officer, PSS is looking into hiring retired nurses to work part-time in every campus to conduct thermal scanning for students and staff.

"We do want to hire, on a part-time basis, some retired nurses to be at every school to basically be scanning students and staff to make certain everyone is healthy," he said, adding that these nurses can help ensure student and staff safety with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"I remember back in 1991, every school had a nurse. Across time we lost our nurses but we need part-time nurses to really make sure our children and staff are healthy before getting together in the classrooms," he said.

Thornburgh added that aside from hiring nurses, PSS will also work on purchasing thermal cameras. "They will be using these thermal cameras, the same thing we see at the airports. It gives a thermal image and it also gives your temperature. That's what we're looking at and we're looking at getting 32 of them," he said.

PSS has also set aside funding it received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, to help low-income families apply for home internet but covering a portion of their internet bill.

"Both of our connectivity providers, Docomo Pacific and IT&E, have a low-income program where they provide a connectivity device for like \$60 a month. We're trying to help families with low income, so we'd cover \$40 but the families would still cover \$20 a month. We're estimating that the number of families [that will be assisted] are most certainly around 4,000," he said.

With the possibility of schools transitioning some learning to online classes this school year, PSS wants to make sure all students have reliable network connection, Thornburgh said, and for the families who cannot afford it, PSS wants to help subsidize this.

PSS is looking at spending around \$15,000 per campus for these initiatives.

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STK:	VEHICLE	SAVINGS	PRICE
0H032	HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE BLACK, 2.0L 4SDN 6EAT	\$4,000	\$18,995
20H043	INTENSE BLUE, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$18,995
20H065	IRON GRAY, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$18,995
20H061	FIERY RED, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$18,995
STK: HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT			
0H022	FLUID METAL, 2.0L 4SDN 6EAT	\$4,000	\$23,995
0H012	IRON GRAY, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H025	GRAY, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT SOLD	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H026	FIERY RED, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H027	TEAL BLUE, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$4,000	\$23,995
20H064	SILVER, 2.0L 4SDN 6MT	\$3,000	\$19,995
STK: HYUNDAI VELOSTER			
0H034	GRAY, 1.6L 3DR COUPE 6EAT SOLD	\$2,000	\$24,995
20H068	BLUE, VELOSTER N 1.6L 3DR COUPE 6MT	\$4,000	\$28,995
STK: HYUNDAI VENUE SE			
20H087	EXOTIC GREEN, 1.6L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$19,995
20H133	MT BLACK/BLUE, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H144	MT WHITE/DENIM, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H109	MT WHITE/DENIM, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H142	MT BLACK/RED, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
20H145	MT BLACK/BLUE, 1.6L 5WGN 6EAT	\$3,000	\$19,995
STK: HYUNDAI KONA L			
20H074	BLACK, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$3,000	\$21,995
20H076	WHITE, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$3,000	\$21,995
20H077	BLUE LAGOON, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$3,000	\$21,995
STK: HYUNDAI TUCSON GL			
20H056	MAGNETIC FORCE, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995
20H127	GEMSTONE RED, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995
20H155	WHITE, 2.0L 5WGN 2WD 6EAT	\$2,000	\$24,995
STK: HYUNDAI PALISADE SPORT			
20H047	STEEL GRAPHITE, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT SOLD	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H053	RAIN FOREST, 3.8L 5WGN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H134	STEEL GRAPHITE, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H136	BURGUNDY, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT	\$2,000	\$36,995
20H001	WHITE CREAM, 3.8L 5WGN 8EAT SOLD	\$2,000	\$36,995

STK:	VEHICLE	SAVINGS	PRICE
0D007	MAZDA3 SPORT JET BLACK, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D042	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D071	POLYMETAL GRAY, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT SOLD	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D097	SOUL RED, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D043	SONIC SILVER, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D070	SNOWFLAKE WHITE, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$21,995
20D092	SNOWFLAKE WHITE, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT SOLD	\$2,000	\$21,995
STK: MAZDA3 PREFERRED			
20D093	JET BLACK, 2.5L 5HB 6EAT	\$4,000	\$22,995
20D094	POLYMETAL GRAY	\$4,000	\$26,995
STK: MAZDA6 SPORT			
0D156	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT SOLD	\$4,000	\$22,995
0D012	SOUL RED CRYSTAL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$26,995
20D023	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT	\$2,000	\$26,995
20D037	JET BLACK, 2.5L 4SDN 6EAT SOLD	\$2,000	\$26,995
STK: MAZDA MX-5 CLUB			
0D106	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.0L 2DR 6MT S/TOP SOLD	\$5,000	\$33,995
20D089	RF MACHINE GRAY, 2.0L 2DR 6MT S/TOP	\$3,000	\$38,995
STK: MAZDA CX-3 SPORT			
20D018	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D022	CERAMIC, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D052	SOUL RED, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D074	JET BLACK, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$21,995
20D031	MACHINE GRAY, 2.0L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD SOLD	\$3,000	\$21,995
STK: MAZDA CX-5 SPORT			
20D031	SONIC SILVER, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD SOLD	\$3,000	\$25,995
20D130	JET BLACK, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$25,995
20D082	SOUL RED, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$3,000	\$25,995
20D113	SNOWFLAKE WHITE, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$3,000	\$27,995
20D114	JET BLACK, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$3,000	\$27,995
20D116	MACHINE GRAY, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT AWD	\$3,000	\$27,995
STK: MAZDA CX-9 SPORT			
20D090	MACHINE GRAY, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$4,000	\$32,995
20D118	MACHINE GRAY, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$4,000	\$32,995
STK: MAZDA CX-9 TOURING			
20D064	SNOWFLAKE WHITE PEARL, 2.5L 5WGN 6EAT 2WD	\$5,000	\$34,995

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Teachers receive summer pay

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System has released payments for summer pay that is owed its teachers under a 190-day contract with PSS.

However, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, summer pay could still possibly inter-

fere with furloughed teachers from receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

“This payment may have an impact on your qualification for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. PSS has written to the CNMI Secretary of Labor who is administering PUA funds and has stated its position that this payment should not count as income or earning

for the purpose of PUA eligibility. ... Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the CNMI Department of Labor,” he said.

A teacher at Marianas High School reported that they received their summer pay allotments last Friday.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, teachers were not supposed to receive summer pay because PSS did not want to interfere with furloughed teachers receiving PUA benefits.

If the summer pay is considered income, teachers who are owed summer pay under their 190-day contract with PSS may not qualify for PUA or Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

If teachers receive PUA or FPUA and also receive their summer pay, Ada feared that it might be considered fraudulent activity.

Ada explained that if summer pay is considered income by DOL, teachers

and staff will not qualify for PUA since summer pay is disbursed like regular payrolls throughout the summer break.

“...It’s money that’s supposed to go to the teachers but there’s a difference of opinion that it is considered an income. If we release the summer pay, it’s going to be considered income, even though that was owed to them according to their contract because they’re on a 190-day teaching contract,” he said.

RESUME

From Page 1

“Unlike many communities throughout the United States, the CNMI economy is heavily centralized on its single tourist sector. The tourism industry accounts for approximately half of total economic activ-

ity and nearly all non-public sector employment income,” Torres said.

COVID-19 has resulted in the shutdown of the CNMI’s tourism industry since mid-March, with flights being suspended for months and devastating the CNMI economy.

Torres told the President that it is his hope that the resumption of flights from South Korea will be the first

step in resuming economic activity in the CNMI, and allow for a system that can be replicated throughout the CNMI’s other tourism markets: Japan and China.

“In recent years, tourist arrivals from South Korea have represented the majority of our monthly and annual arrivals, and the South Korean tourist market is of significant economic value to

our economy and the U.S. jobs present within it,” he told Trump.

Torres also presented Trump with the CNMI’s Tourism Resumption Blueprint—the Commonwealth’s plan to resume tourism responsibly and safely.

“The blueprint we have in place for the resumption of international flights from South Korea is built upon the strength of our community-testing initiatives currently in effect along with our network of COVID-19 monitoring and incident response developed in partnership with our Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,” he said.

The governor informed Trump that the CNMI is in the process of instituting changes throughout the islands’ tourism corridors to enhance monitoring and risk mitigation efforts.

“The federal government and the CNMI government are key partners in our tourism industry. Under your leadership, the CNMI economy has truly been given the opportunity to grow. We look forward to once more being productive members of the American economic community as we rise from the ramifications of this

pandemic,” he added.

Blueprint

The blueprint outlines the partnership among the CNMI government, the private sector, and the governments and travel partners in the international source countries to foster the resumption of tourism on island.

Under the plan, the CNMI government sets a pathway for the resumption of commercial activity based on results of the mass testing, provide resources and guidance to private sector partners on COVID-19 mitigation protocols and safety precautions, and continue community-wide testing and reestablish restrictions in the interest of safety for residents and visitors should concerns arise.

In partnership with the private sector, the CNMI government will identify best practices and mechanisms for international flights that will safeguard the health and safety of visitors and residents, and foster agreements with international tourism industry partners,

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

NEW

From Page 1

the Commonwealth Ports Authority put together to prepare for the July 15, 2020, target date of reopening the CNMI to tourists.

In his PowerPoint presentation during Thursday’s CPA board committees’ meeting, CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said those seeing off passengers at the airport will only be allowed to enter the terminal if they are escorting unaccompanied minors or special-need passengers.

Also, taxi and shuttle operators may not wait for passengers immediately outside the arrival exit point, Tenorio said, adding that CPA will designate areas for operators to pick up passengers.

Tenorio said their aim is to complete the action plan by July 15 and that they did some testing last Thursday morning and would be doing another one last Saturday, June 20. “CPA aims to minimize the potential adverse health impact of COVID-19

by slowing the spread of the disease in the CNMI and at its ports,” he said.

Tenorio said CPA also seeks to minimize COVID-19’s impact on the CNMI economy by maintaining trust and confidence among its airport partners and the traveling public.

To these ends, he said, CPA is dedicated to providing a safe, clean, and secure airport for its passengers, employees, and tenants by implementing what are deemed “best practices” for safety and economic recovery.

Tenorio said some of the steps that they are actually doing right now at the terminal will also apply to the airports on Tinian and Rota.

On cleaning and sanitation, he said, CPA will continue implementing enhanced cleaning and sanitation of its airports to reduce the spread of COVID-19. That includes sanitation of all surfaces and increased cleaning efforts in restrooms and other public areas.

He said their maintenance or CPA custodians are the ones doing the cleaning right now, but CPA could also potentially hire professional cleaners to come in at least

once a month to disinfect the whole terminal.

On social distancing and precautionary measures, Tenorio said CPA will continue to encourage and enable social distancing by implementing precautionary measures throughout the airport such as installing plexiglass protection barriers at CPA administration and CPA accounting.

He said floor decals will be placed every 6 feet in passenger queuing areas and plexiglass dividers will be installed at the TSA check station.

Tenorio said airport employees, airport tenants, vendors and visitors are required to wear face masks in public areas and non-public areas.

At baggage claim, he said, floor decals will be placed every 6 feet in the passenger queuing area.

For arriving passengers, Tenorio said, signage will be placed to inform arriving passengers to maintain social distancing.

He said thermal screening and/or temperature reading of arriving passengers will be performed upon arrival.

FIRE

From Page 1

DFEMS spokesperson Derric Gersonde said the grass fire was seen spreading to the Evergreen area, which called for activation of DFEMS’ Forestry’s strike team, which has been trained to handle this kind of wildfire.

Aside from Forestry, fire fighter and medical teams from the Kagman fire station, Capital Hill fire station, Susupe Fire Station, and Garapan fire station were also dispatched to the area.

Fortunately, there were no individuals that needed treatment at the scene, Gersonde said, and the fire did not reach any residential area.

He declined to say if the fire is due to the drought that remains much in effect throughout the CNMI, saying that the cause of the fire remains unknown.

However, Gersonde said, droughts can create ideal conditions for wildfires. The lack of rain and low humidity can dry out trees and vegetation, which could act as fuel, causing small grass fires to become greater.

According to residents who live

near the area, the fire was still ongoing and lighting up a hill near Kannat Tabla.

The fire was last seen burning vegetation from the top of the hill, blowing clouds of ash down to Garapan.

Back in May 2019, a brush fire wiped out acres of vegetation that started in Evergreen and spread to Kannat Tabla hill.

At that time, DFEMS stationed teams on Mt. Tapochau, Kannat Tabla by the Bishop Estate, and another in Papago to monitor the fire’s movement because of its approach to the residential area in Kannat Tabla and Papago.

A string of brush fires has struck the CNMI since April with the islands experiencing and extended period of drought.

Exceptional drought

Extreme drought on Tinian and Saipan has been downgraded to exceptional due to another two weeks of below-adequate rainfall, according to the latest weather advisory from the National Weather Service.

Dry conditions will persist another couple of weeks across the CNMI, with relatively drier weather expected in Guam compared to the previous

few weeks.

The CNMI has been stuck in a very dry trade-wind pattern for several months now. As assessed by the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands United States Drought Monitor team, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport has had the third driest May, driest April-May, and March-May; second driest February-May and January-May; third driest December-May; and fourth driest November-May on record.

However, officials report water levels in the CNMI are still above thresholds for concern.

Drought conditions continue to improve across Guam where rainfall has been near-adequate over the last two weeks. A wet trade-wind pattern continues to provide steady showers to islands across the region. Disturbances embedded in the trades and a favorable upper-level wind pattern have spread steady showers and drought improvement across Yap and the northern islands of Chuuk state. Showers have been spottier across the northern Marshall Islands. Weak disturbances have provided showers for Guam recently, with above normal rainfall occurring during the month of May 2020.

HOW

From Page 1

has addressed issues concerning the lack of ballot accountability in the 2018 elections, as uncovered by the Office of the Public Auditor, and how the upcoming elections will be conducted, given the pandemic.

An OPA report last January tagged CEC’s lack of accountability on the number of ballots received and available, and on used and unused ballots, and that CEC’s lack of process to account for all the ballots received prevented the commission from identifying potential election fraud or irregularities.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) said in early June that CNMI voters have a right to know what CEC did to correct the OPA findings. He also questioned what measures CEC is putting in place for this year’s elections, and expressed disappointment with the CEC website being outdated.

“What measures are being put in place in case of a second wave or a breakout of COVID-19 cases right before the election? Are mail-in ballots being considered? If so, how will the CEC ensure they are safeguarded? We have heard nothing from the CEC,” he said.

Separately, Sens. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) wrote CEC about these matters, with Manglona calling on the commission to take steps to prevent election fraud and to implement

the OPA recommendations. Igisomar asked for CEC’s action plan for the November election.

To address election concerns during the pandemic, some states in the U.S. are opting for mail-in ballots, where voters can cast in their votes by mail, or conduct early voting, allowing more time period for voting, to prevent people from crowding at a precinct on the actual election day.

At the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Thursday, Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) expressed concerns over the lack of quorum at CEC and some vitally-needed resources to get the election processes, and the November election going.

“Unfortunately, there remain serious discrepancies that were identified by the [OPA] from the last election, which the [commission] has yet to resolve,” she said. “The urgency cannot be understated at this time. It’s June. The election is a few months away. The integrity of our elections and public confidence in this process are so essential to our democracy. We really need to get some answers from the CEC.”

At the same SNILD session, Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said that the Senate is currently awaiting nominations from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to complete the Elections Commission board.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Detainee claims head injury after inmate throws water bottle at him

A pretrial detainee has claimed that he sustained a head injury when an inmate threw a full water bottle at him inside the Department of Corrections in Susupe last January and is now suing DOC for the incident.

Clifford Palacios is questioning why his alleged attacker, Ben Taisacan, was allowed to carry a water bottle, considering that DOC has a policy of not allowing inmates to bring water bottles up to their cells because of a history of prisoners using them as weapons.

The alleged water bottle attack was among the allegations that Palacios brought up in his lawsuit before the federal court against DOC, DOC Commissioner Wally Vilagomez, DOC officials and officers Georgia Cabrera, Kelvin Semena, Damian De Leon Guerrero, Patrick Dowai, and two unnamed DOC officers.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found Palacios' complaint deficient but allowed him to amend and refile it by July 8, 2020. She said the case will be dismissed if Palacios fails to file the amended complaint by the deadline.

She said some of Palacios' claims appear cognizable but the complaint itself is deficient for two additional reasons: Palacios does not indicate whether he is suing the DOC officials named in the complaint in their personal or official capacities, nor does he identify the specific remedy he is asking for.

Manglona allowed Palacios to proceed with his lawsuit without paying filing fees.

She ordered that the amended complaint must specify what remedy Palacios is asking for and that Palacios must also begin the complaint with a complete list of every person or entity he is suing and whether he is suing that individual in their personal capacity, official capacity, or both.

Aside from the water bottle attack, Palacios also alleged two separate incidents at DOC: failure to provide medical care, failure to protect, failure to maintain safe premises, and failure to investigate.

In the water bottle incident, the complainant said tensions between him and Taisacan began at 5:45am last Jan. 26 when he was awakened by Taisacan playing loud music on a television. Palacios said he repeatedly asked Taisacan to turn the volume down, but the latter refused and instead gave him a threatening gesture. When a DOC officer noticed the escalating argument, the two were placed on lockdown. Palacios said he refused Taisacan's repeated challenge to fight him.

A DOC supervisor ordered the officers not to allow the two out of their cells at the same time.

The next morning, Jan. 27, Taisacan allegedly threatened

Palacios again. Palacios said he repeated to Semena, who was on duty, that he was worried Taisacan would attack him. Palacios said he saw Semena and Taisacan talking less than five minutes later.

Palacios said during breakfast, his cell on the second floor was unlocked to allow him to refill a cup. At the same time, Semena reportedly allowed Taisacan to start heading up the stairs to the second floor, with a filled water bottle in his hand.

Palacios said unaware that Taisacan was ascending toward him when he stepped out of his cell. Palacios said Taisacan then allegedly threw the filled water bottle at him, hitting him in the head. He said he sustained a head injury and began bleeding. Paramedics later determined that Palacios needed to go to the hospital for stitches.

Palacios said that, while en route to the hospital, DOC officers took Palacios back to DOC to photograph his head wound before it was stitched. Palacios said he insisted that he needed to go to the hospital immediately, but even after photographing the cut, the officers first interviewed him about the

incident. The officers subsequently brought Palacios to the emergency room at the Commonwealth Health Center so his head could be stitched.

Palacios said he filed several grievances with DOC to complain about Taisacan's attack but all went unanswered. He said DOC made no effort to investigate the attack and treated him like a nuisance for complaining about it.

The other incident was about Palacios reporting that the bunk in his cell appears cheaply welded and does not have a ladder.

He said that, rather than provide a ladder, DOC officers instructed him to reach the top bunk by climbing on top of a sink and then hopping over to the bunk. Palacios said that, while attempting this maneuver, last Jan. 6 or 7, he slipped and hit his forehead against the edge of the bunk. Palacios said he was bleeding profusely and that an officer brought him to paramedics to treat the cut. Back in his cell, Palacios said he asked an officer for a Tylenol to help with the pain, but he was not given anything.

The last incident was last Jan. 8 to 9 when, following the

bunk accident, Palacios allegedly suffered from a "stabbing migraine" and that his vision became blurry at times. Palacios said he feared he was suffering a pre-stroke and asked to see a paramedic again. He said guards told him that paramedics were coming, but none did.

In her order Tuesday, Manglona said that, based on Palacios' claim of inadequate medical care, she cannot say that the officers took reasonable measures to abate an obvious risk of harm. Manglona said that, depending on how serious Palacios' injuries appeared, and how much pain he was in, it may have been objectively unreasonable to delay giving him medical care for as long as the officers did. Consequently, Manglona said, this claim passes screening.

On the claim for failure to protect, the judge said that, by pointing at Palacios and making a punching gesture,

Semena may have gone so far as to goad Taisacan into attacking Palacios. Thus, Manglona said, accepting the facts in the complaint as true, she finds that Palacios has stated a cognizable claim based on Semena's failure to protect him from Taisacan.

On the claim of failure to maintain safe premises, Manglona said as a prerequisite to stating a claim here, Palacios must allege more than just that the guards instructed him to access the top bunk by climbing onto a sink. Manglona said Palacios must explain how, given his personal situation, doing so was clearly unsafe. Manglona said because Palacios did not include any such details in his current complaint, she finds that he has not yet stated a claim here. She said Palacios has an opportunity to file an amended complaint restating this claim with more facts.

On the claim of failure to investigate, Manglona said Palacios' claim stems from DOC's alleged failure to respond to his grievances about being attacked by another inmate. Under even the 14th Amendment, inmates do not have a constitutional entitlement to a specific prison grievance procedure, Manglona said. Therefore, the judge said, failing to process or decide an inmate's grievance is not itself a due process violation. Manglona said DOC's alleged failure to process Palacios' grievances concerning one incident did not violate his 14th Amendment rights, and that he has not stated a valid claim here.

Last November, police arrested Palacios on charges of 36 counts of misuse of financial instruments. He allegedly made 36 transactions through Western Union using his employer's debit card, totaling \$15,614. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2019 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2019 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

For Tinian, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

For Rota, go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóomw 2019 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráagh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóomw schaal llól ráághil 2019 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÁLIDÁT HÂNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

lyon-mu 2019 na Ripot nu i Kuálidát Hânóm i CUC managuahayi pá'gu giya on-line! Pá'gu na sákkán, in na'guahayi siparâo na ripot para kada' isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottánti na infotmasyon put i tutuhonña yan kuálidát put i Hânóm ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan hâfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda' gi hálum i hânóm-mu gi durántin 2019 na sákkán para un ke'tungu' mäs put i hânóm ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hânao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Saipan2019.pdf>

Para Tinian, hânao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Tinian2019.pdf>

Para Luta, hânao para <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/Rota2019.pdf>

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matransláda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hâyí put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian páppit u ma'entrega pat ma-email guatu para hãgu, put fabot hãgan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

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wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.



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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>



INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2020-008

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: July 21, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Purchase and Installation of Lighting Fixtures
for the Oleai Track and Field Facility**

Project package will be available on June 19, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on June 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/

Vinney Atalig-Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

Man gets 15 years in prison for sex abuse of minor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed last Wednesday a 15-year prison term on a habitual offender who pleaded guilty to sexually abusing an 11-year-old girl and then later attempting to jump off a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed the maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment on 37-year-old Jordan Robert Tudela, for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. No portion of the sentence is suspended so

Tudela is not eligible for probation. Camacho said Tudela is only eligible for parole after he has already served a third—five years—of his 15-year sentence. If granted parole, Tudela is not allowed to drink any alcoholic beverages.

Tudela was given credit for time served and was required to register as a sex offender.

Camacho said the sentence is appropriate because Tudela has already been convicted of six other prior crimes, escalating from misdemeanors to a serious felony and that Tudela was not able to complete all of his probation conditions in

three out of six cases. In all six cases, Tudela was supervised by the Office of Adult Probation. Clearly, the judge said, the Office of Adult Probation is not a suitable mechanism to supervise him. Camacho said he looks to the Board of Parole to provide the close and intense supervision necessary for Tudela's compliance and rehabilitation as well as for the victim and community safety.

Camacho said he endeavored to fashion a sentence so that the victim would be an adult by the time Tudela is released and, if granted parole, he will be required to be employed to support his children.

Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery recommended a sentence of 15 years imprisonment without parole

and restitution for medical bills and counseling, if any. Assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues recommended a sentence of 15 years with five years to serve and 10 years suspended with parole eligibility.

Tudela indicated that he needs help with his alcohol addiction and assured that he will strive to become a better person when he is released.

Many witnesses, including his brother, said that Tudela is "good" and "obedient" when sober but is a troublemaker when drunk.

The defendant also allegedly use methamphetamine or "ice."

Tudela claimed to have worked as a tour guide, front desk clerk, and receiving clerk at hotels in Palau and on Saipan; a security screener in

Palau; a waiter in Guam; and member of a tourist dinner entertainment dance troupe in Palau and Saipan.

Under the plea deal, assistant attorney general Vickery and assistant public defender Nogues agree that Tudela will be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not more than 15 years, to be decided by the judge at the sentencing hearing.

According to the plea deal, Tudela sexually abused the girl on Dec. 1, 2018. According to court documents, Tudela's girlfriend told police

that she caught the defendant sexually molesting the girl in Chalan Kanoa.

Tudela allegedly begged to his girlfriend not to report the matter to authorities. The girlfriend reported the incident nonetheless, prompting Tudela to climb atop a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa and threaten to jump off.

For over three hours, police officers and other first responders urged Tudela to get off the edge of the building. He was later arrested at the site.

Open registration for NMC free virtual summer math program

Summertime can be filled with many learning opportunities. For math lovers, you just might be interested in what the Northern Marianas College University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities has to offer.

In partnership with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies, NMC UCEDD is pleased to offer middle school students with an opportunity to participate in a virtual math program. Known as Project BEAM—"Be a Mathematician"—the summer math camp offers hands-on math activities, real-world applications, project development, and distance learning. Students who will be entering

the 7th and 8th grades in the upcoming school year and who have earned an "A" or "B" grade in their previous math class are eligible to apply.

In order to participate in the program, students must have a laptop or tablet as well as access to the Internet. Other than that, the Project BEAM summer math camp is free of charge and open to junior high students in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The math camp program is scheduled to run from July 20 to August 7, 2020, from 9am to 12:30pm. This is a three-week program from Monday through Friday. As space is limited, early registration is encouraged. To register, contact Arlene Yamagata at arlene.yamagata@marianas.edu or call (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6808. Registration will end on June 29, 2020.

Priority may be given to middle school students from the following targeted ethnic groups: Hispanic/Latino, native American, Filipino, native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders. This summer's Project BEAM mentors are Dr. Dora Miura and Vina Duenas. Miura is a veteran educator having taught for 24 years with 13 years dedicated to math. She is a math mentor for math teachers in the CNMI as well as a recipient of the 2016 CNMI State Teacher of the Year and 2015 Presidential Award Winner for Math and Science Teaching. Duenas received her bachelor's degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Kennesaw State University in Georgia. She began her teaching career in 2015 at Saipan Southern High School teaching various math subjects.

Project BEAM is a five-year project funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Education Program. The purpose of this project is to promote STEM participation of middle school students within the targeted ethnic groups in improving their math skills and accomplishments.

For more information, visit www.marianas.edu or email cnmi.ucedd@marianas.edu. (PR)



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AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes: May 28, 2020

II. REPORTS:

- Report by the Chairman
- Report by the Acting Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

- Casino Licensee -- Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") -- Updates:
 - Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"). Update on IPR's Construction Project
 - IPI Personnel:
 - Status of the proposed Updated Organizational Chart
 - Resident Employment Objectives
 - Status of Employee Payroll
 - Status of the Appointment of IPI's CEO
 - Update on the Operations & Reopening Plan
 - Responsible Gaming Program
 - Compliance Committee Report
 - IPI Financial Matters
- Other Miscellaneous Matters

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on House Bill No. 21-11, HS1, SD1, SD3
- Other Old Business Matters

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- Public Law No. 21-26: Limitation on Gross Revenue Deduction
- Public Law No. 21-27: Law Enforcement Designation
- Proposed Commission Order No. 2020-002 (Order Requiring the Casino Licensee to Appoint a Chief Executive Officer)
- Proposed Commission Order No. 2020-003 (Order Requiring Casino Licensee to Maintain Sufficient Working Capital to Pay Three Months' Payroll In a Bank in the CNMI or USA)
- Proposed Commission Order No. 2020-004 (Order Requiring the Casino Licensee to Settle Accounts Payable)
- Proposed Changes to the Minimum Internal Control Standards ("MICS")
- Other New Business Matters

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Report by Legal Counsel
- Report by the CCC Audit and Compliance Division

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

QUAKE REPORT

5.1-magnitude quake shakes Saipan

At 10:15pm on June 20 2020, a report of a 5.1-magnitude earthquake occurred 265 kilometers north-northwest of Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

4.8-magnitude quake hits Merizo

At 8:05am on June 20 2020, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred 212 kilometers west-southwest of Merizo Village in Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Operations Manager (1)

Opening Date: June 15, 2020

Closing Date: July 15, 2020

Duties: Manage quality assurance programs, hiring and training other employees. Monitoring existing processes and analyzing their effectiveness and creating strategies to improve productivity and efficiency. Work hand in hand with project team to create a mutual understanding of the project strategy based on the requirement of the job. Assist engineer with reviews and analysis of contractor payment request and company's correspondence. Convey project needs from the engineer to the management of the firm. Meet project budgets through assessing and analyzing operational and financial risks that may be encountered in the execution of planned construction projects. Advise the company in making decisions that are commercially viable. Make sure that the works are allocated to engineer in an appropriate manner and are prioritized based on how urgent they are and also based on the needs of the customer. Make sure that every project at hand is completed and delivered to the owner when due, and that expenses incurred in the project process fall within the stipulated company budget.

Maintains office services by organizing office operations and procedures; Preparing payroll; Controlling correspondence; Designing filing systems; Reviewing and approving supply requisitions; Assisting and monitoring clerical functions. Manage material and manpower requirements. Perform preparation of invoices, variance and claims and client follow up. Negotiate and maintain all corporate insurance policies such as: Vehicle Insurance, Workmen Compensation, General Liability Insurance, Etc... Direct preparation and modification of reports. Inspect reports and site monitoring. Coordinate with clients, consultants and sub-contractors. Calculate data, compute taxes and charges. Prepare projects' permitting. Prepare invoices for billing purposes. Prepare documents for newly hired employees. Plays the role of the middle man or communication link between engineer and the management staff of the company.

Salary: \$47,341.00 per annum

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Management or any other related courses and 36 months of related experience.

Special Requirements: Expertise in MS Office Tools. Can operate accounting software such as Peach Tree and Quickbooks. Can troubleshoot computers and can operate majority of the usual office equipment. Can communicate clearly and concisely, verbally and in writing in English. Can work with immigration lawyer and immigration agencies regarding employees' immigration status requirements such as foreign passport, H1 B, CW-1. Can work flexible hours.

Interested applicants must meet all requirements needed as stated in the JVA and must submit their complete/detailed resume at our office in Kannat Tabla, Saipan or via email at primtek.construct@yahoo.com. A hands-on test on computer software/programs and a panel interview with the board may be scheduled to determine the eligibility of the potential applicant.

Torres: CNMI has PPE stockpile to last several months

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With an initial projection that the CNMI will have a peak of 6,000 COVID-19 infections by mid-June, the CNMI was able to stockpile personal protective equipment to last for the next three to four months or more. So far, the CNMI has been able to keep its infections number at a low 30, and this means the CNMI has more than enough PPEs on hand.

"With the success that we

are having as a community... we're able to expend those PPEs for a longer period of time, and if we can maintain the numbers, we may not have to spend a penny more for the next month," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at his radio news briefing last Thursday.

Torres stated that they seized every opportunity they had to get their hands on PPEs, guided by the projected number of cases and based on the recommendation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services.

As for the test kits, based on the 50,000 population of the CNMI, Torres said that they wanted to order 20% more "just in case."

"Now that we're seeing that this is going to be a longer process, we do have test kits, but we're ordering other parts of the test itself like reagents, swabs, and more," said Torres.

With some concerns that the test kits may not be accurate, Torres assured that the ones in the CNMI have are backed

with an Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and are expected to soon be FDA approved, so there's should be no question as to how accurate they are because "we have as accurate as any test kit, if not, even better."

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, who was also with Torres at the press briefing, said that every test is evaluated at CHCC to make a final decision. She pointed out that there's always a possibility of

a false positive or false negative, not only for COVID-19 tests but for every test at any hospital. "Nothing is perfect, but that's why you have the clinical aspect there," said Muña. "Community-based testing, for example, the results of those are reviewed by our providers [or] pathologists and our medical doctors..."

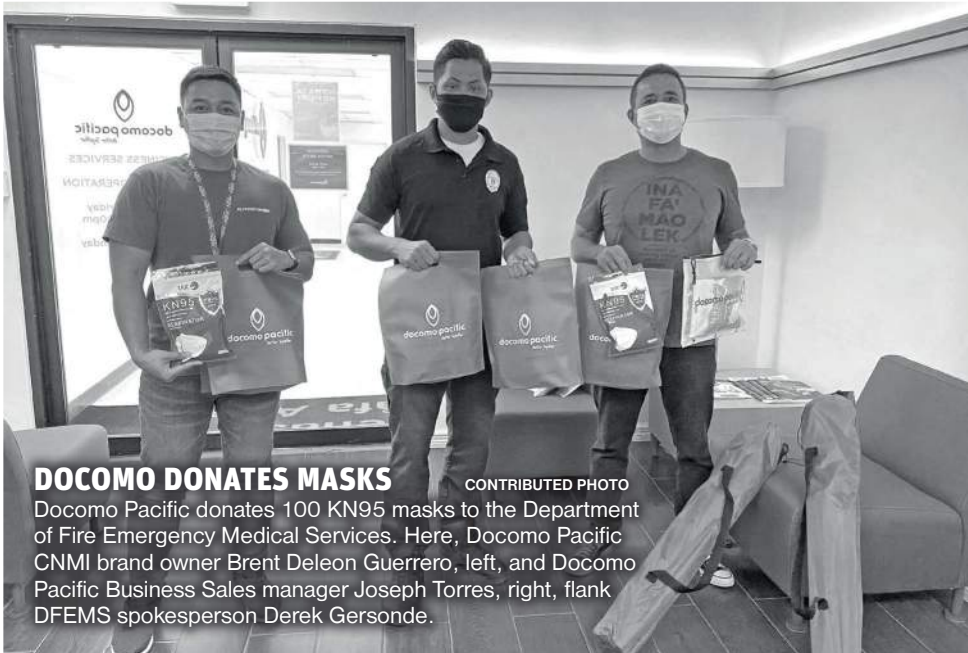
"...Our laboratory technicians and professionals at CHCC are credentialed. They're highly qualified," said Warren Villagomez, who chairs the Governor's COV-

ID-19 Task Force.

Additionally, Villagomez said that CHCC goes through credentialing and the laboratory personnel are recognized by the United States credentialing committee, clinical laboratory improvement amendments, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"Please be assured that the results that are coming out are looked at very closely," said Villagomez.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 30 confirmed cases, with five active cases and two deaths.



DOCOMO DONATES MASKS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific donates 100 KN95 masks to the Department of Fire Emergency Medical Services. Here, Docomo Pacific CNMI brand owner Brent DeLeon Guerrero, left, and Docomo Pacific Business Sales manager Joseph Torres, right, flank DFEMS spokesperson Derek Gersonde.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific donates 100 KN95 masks to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. In this photo, Docomo Pacific Business Sales manager Joseph Torres and Docomo Pacific account manager Broc Calvo turn over the masks to COTA staff members.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ20-GOV-076

ASSESSMENT & DESIGN OF THE FIRE ALARM AND FIRE SPRINKLER/PROTECTION SYSTEM at the DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS in SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program, (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from Qualified Engineers to provide engineering services for the assessment and design of the Fire Alarm and Fire Sprinkler/Protection System at the Department of Corrections in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant Funding under the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and submittal requirements at the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or request electronic mail (attn.: Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com) beginning June 16, 2020, during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Thursday, except on holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the scope of work and submittal requirements.

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification (Personnel, Education and Professional Licenses)	30 points
2. Experiences (similar projects)	40 points
3. Project Approach	15 points
4. Workload and Resources	15 points

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "RFQ20-GOV-076, DESIGN FOR A FIRE ALARM AND FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SAIPAN." For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) and must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 9:00 a.m., July 8, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m., CHST, on July 8, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to: (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@df.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country **no later than July 08, 2020, and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP 96950** and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply by **no later than July 17, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS (To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-20

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT HAZMAT TRAILER TO TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TINIAN

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit HAZMAT Trailer for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning June 22, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$100.00 in cash or cashier's check.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at atudela@cpa.gov.mp on or before July 13, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit HAZMAT Trailer/IFB-002-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, July 20, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

'SSI benefits should also be given to Guam residents'

A federal judge ruled Friday in *Schaller v. U.S. Social Security Administration* that the exclusion of Guam residents from the federal Supplemental Security Income benefits program for the blind, elderly, and disabled constitutes unconstitutional discrimination.

The decision, if upheld on appeal, would mean that Katrina Schaller, a resident of Guam who suffers from a debilitating genetic disorder, would receive the same federal SSI benefits as her twin sister, Leslie, who lives in Pennsylvania and receives \$755 a

month in SSI payments. Leslie has filed a companion case in Pennsylvania, wanting to be able to visit her family in Guam for more than 30 days or move to Guam without loss of her benefits.

"This important victory highlights both the arbitrariness and the real-world harms when federal laws discriminate against citizens in U.S. territories simply because of where they live," said Neil Weare, president and

founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for the nearly 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories. "No American should have to choose between receiving the benefits they need to survive and being able to live near their family support network.

It's refreshing to see a federal judge rule that this kind of discrimination is not just wrong, but unconstitutional."

Friday's ruling adds momentum to a building wave

of court decisions ruling that federal laws that discriminate against residents of U.S. territories are unconstitutional. In April, the First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *United States v. Vaello Madero* that the SSI law's exclusion of Puerto Rican residents violated the Constitution, setting up

a likely Supreme Court battle between the United States and territorial residents like Katrina Schaller who are denied much-needed SSI benefits simply because of where they happen to live in the United States. The deadline for the United States to appeal the *Vaello Madero* decision to the Supreme Court is

Sept. 7, 2020. The Supreme Court typically grants review when a court decision rules a federal statute unconstitutional.

Friday's District Court of Guam decision was in the case *Schaller v. U.S. Social Security Administration*, Civil Case No. 18-00044 (D. Guam June 19, 2020). (PR)



Weare

Deadline nears for NMHC Pride Talks writing contest

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is calling on the LGBTQ+ community to write about their experience in the CNMI for a writing contest whose deadline to join is June 26, 2020. This comes as the world marks the entire month of June as Pride Month.

The writing contest is being done as part of Pride Talks, an annual program the NMHC hosts each year in June.

NMHC program officer Farah Younis said the purpose for this writing competition is to "give the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI another way to celebrate and move their fight for equality forward by sharing their stories and making the general public aware of

their struggle and thoughts."

The categories for submissions are: poems, essay or a short story. The essay and short story must be a minimum of 500 words. The poem can be any style, free verse, sonnet, narrative, etc. All works must be original and anyone plagiarizing will be disqualified. The competition is open to all ages.

A winner will be named separately for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The prizes are \$500 for first place, \$300 for second, and \$100 for third place. The submission deadline will be on June 26, 2020. Include your submission with your name, village, and contact information. Submit all

entries via email to farah@nmhcouncil.org. Anyone from the CNMI may join the competition including Tinian and Rota. However, each island has its own competition and winners.

Last year, NMHC's Pride Talks involved the screening of the film *Boy Erased* at the Regal Cinemas, with guest speakers from the LGBTQ+ community—a doctor and a pastor—who shared experiences, statistics, and perspectives. With his year's contest, Younis said the council wants to "capture the voices of the LGBTQ+ in the CNMI by having them share their unique stories, creativity, and experiences." (Chevy Alipio)



NEW PARKING LOT

The Department of Public Works broke ground last May 1 on the construction of a long-term parking lot for the Commonwealth Health Center, to replace the upper level parking space that's been taken up by the Medical Care and Treatment Site.

KRIZEL TUAZON

GAO: CBP needs to improve outreach to reduce slavery in seafood industry

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a new report Friday requested by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), the Government Accountability Office finds that U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials have not effectively coordinated with partner agencies to reduce human slavery and illegal labor practices in the seafood industry and need to improve their investigative methods.

The report makes clear that collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, affiliated nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders is ad hoc at best and cannot meet legal requirements without reform.

The report, available online at <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-20-441>, focuses on CBP enforcement of Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which gives the agency authority to detain shipments imported to the United States when it has information that reasonably indicates they were produced under forced labor. To date, the agency has only issued "withhold release"

orders for seafood imports on two occasions—both for seafood coming from tuna long-line vessels.

According to GAO, "CBP officials said that stakeholders such as nongovernmental organizations often have firsthand accounts of forced labor—valuable information for investigations. However, most stakeholders told GAO that they do not have a clear understanding of the information CBP needs to investigate seafood cases because CBP has not communicated such information."

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing has long been a concern of the House Committee on Natural Resources. In addition to the environmental harm it causes, IUU fishing is associated with other illicit practices, including the use of slave or forced labor and human trafficking. According to the United Nations, nearly 25 million people in the world are involved in forced labor, about 11% of whom work in agriculture and fishing.

The United States relies on imports for most of the

seafood it consumes and imported about \$40 billion in fishery products in 2018, according to GAO.

CBP works with officials at the NOAA Seafood Import Monitoring Program, among other partners, because CBP itself does not have agents stationed around the world to see evidence of forced labor in the fishing industry firsthand. GAO found that these stakeholders do not have a clear understanding of what information CBP needs to investigate forced labor cases for seafood and recommends that CBP better communicate to stakeholders the types of information that will help the agency initiate and investigate these kinds of cases related to seafood.

The Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee held a hearing on NOAA's Biennial IUU Report in November of 2019, which included an extended discussion on the links between IUU fishing and forced labor. The committee intends to address the issue before the end of the 116th Congress. (PR)

SNILD visits IPI villas, proposed burial site for ancestral bones

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Legislators had a tour of the Imperial Palace Resort's presidential suits, as well as of the site where ancestral remains are to be reburied, last Thursday.

Members of the Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation accepted the invitation extended by Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero to visit the facility earlier this month during a joint hearing of both the House and the Senate Gaming Committee.

In an interview, House Gaming Committee chair Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) acknowledged that the facility is very impressive, but there is still a lot of work to be done. They were also hoping to speak with IPI's mother company's chair/executive director Cui Li Jie, who was not around during the tour.

When asked about his thoughts on the villas, Yumul's personal take is that it would be a shame not to complete the facility. "We came this far already for it to come to a shut down, if it does, we don't know. We don't know if

there's going to be a receivership, where the court takes over so that they get their labor issues cleared out, the fines, the penalties."

"It would be a shame, we came so close to completing it and then now, [if] it's stopped it's [going to] hurt everyone, the community, the CNMI government. We pretty much put all our eggs into one basket, we're almost there but it's having to look a lot dimmer now," he added.

"There's also uncertainty with what's going on with the federal case and all the lawsuits...so there are more questions than what we're able to ask," he added.

Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), who said the facilities are "amazing," hopes that the place comes to fruition when the economy starts to recover, to help the people of the CNMI.

While impressed with the facility, Yumul stressed that legislators still need to question IPI, with CCC's guidance as they are "the arm" that can communicate with the owners of IPI.

"There is some confusion...there [are] a lot of moving parts now with the casino. It

is what it is. We're just [going to] have to wait and see—if that does materialize—where we get to meet with the owners or at least higher-ranking officials of IPI, to get some clarity on what's going on in regards to payroll and other issues they have right now here in the CNMI," Yumul said.

As for the burial site, Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) said at the SNILD session Thursday that she was grateful to have been brought to the proposed burial location for the ancestral bones dug up at the construction site.

"It was discussed how the location is big...even though the number of bones isn't as much. I'm glad that we are trying to properly and respectfully bury our ancestors," she added.

With the burial location set to be completed in July, Babauta encouraged Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) to partner with the Historic Preservation Office in planning for the reburial of the ancestral bones, adding that the burial, being a first, will set a precedent as to how the CNMI would move forward when burying ancestral bones that are being recovered.

CNMI and Guam want in on federal anti-drug program

CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan and Guam Attorney General Leevin T. Camacho have jointly petitioned seeking High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area designations under the Hawaii HIDTA. The petitions were submitted on June 12, 2020, to the National Office of Drug Control Policy in Washington, D.C.

The HIDTA program was created by Congress in accordance with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The program provides financial assistance, support, and law enforcement intelligence to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies and territories operating in regions determined to be affected by drug trafficking, with the aim of reducing illegal drug trafficking and production.

"Fighting the drug crisis in the CNMI and Guam requires unified efforts at the local and federal levels," said Manibusan. "Given Hawaii HIDTA designation, the CNMI and Guam petitioners will be able to rise above the challenges in the fight against drug importation, interdiction, and pros-

ecution."

Camacho said: "This time we recognized that working with the CNMI and Hawaii would be the most effective way of disrupting the flow of drugs into our islands. ... Working with...Manibusan and [Hawaii HIDTA] executive Director Gary Yabuta on this petition was an important first step in a regional collaboration of local and federal law enforcement efforts."

With limited resources and the islands' proximity to Asian countries where drug use and manufacturing are rampant, both offices believe a HIDTA designation will magnify efforts in addressing drug trafficking and drug-related crimes. With the support and encouragement of Hawaii HIDTA, the attorneys general for the CNMI and Guam shared information and ideas on how to best approach our ambition in obtaining a HIDTA designation. A HIDTA designation under Hawaii will allow the CNMI and Guam and Hawaii to collaborate and share federal resources, including access to federal funds, provide training and share information to combat drug importation and distribution, reduce drug-related

Community welcomes easing of restrictions

Island residents are relieved that the CNMI's social distancing sacrifices the past couple of months has finally borne fruit with the Community Vulnerability Level now downgraded to "Blue." *Saipan Tribune* talked to some members of the community on their take on this positive development amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sheena Varias, 19, from San Antonio said, "I'm glad to know that with the community working together, we are able to be declared 'Blue Level.' I hope that declaring Blue Level won't encourage others to neglect proper procedures. If we all do our part to not spread the virus, we can make it so the community can be clear of COVID-19. Hopefully in due time, we are able to be declared green."

Fiona Bucalig, 16, from As Lito, said "I can't believe we are actually at Level Blue. It is very encouraging to know that the social distancing and all precautions that we took have made an impact. I hope that we can get the all-clear soon. Hopefully, no one takes being declared Blue as a sign that they can go out without following social distancing. If we all do our part and get the all-clear, it will definitely be good timing for the summer."

Christian (last name withheld by request), 20, from Koblerville says that it's such

a relief feeling that the CNMI is closer to becoming all clear. "However, even if the CNMI is closer to where we want it to be at, we should always take precaution measures. I feel like our new normal is this way. Things have changed and we should just live and work with it to be safer in the community. I hope the community will continue practicing social distancing and keeping things sanitized as much as possible."

Ryan (last name withheld by request), 18, from Garapan thinks that being at Level Blue is both a good and bad thing. "I really hope our leaders made the right decision with this call. I still feel a little anxious to be out with a lot of people. However, it is also such a relief feeling that we are closer to Green. It is such a good sign for the CNMI. It is amazing how communities are doing their part. Stay safe CNMI."

Maryanne (last name withheld by request), 18, from Chalan Kanoa, said that "we are finally getting there as a community. Our new normal may be different but it is the best way to live right now." She also said that she can't wait for it to be all clear to get back into sports. "I've been running in the [Beach Road] pathway, but I really can't wait to play sports and compete with other players. We should always keep things sanitized and stay safe." (*Chevy Alipio*)

crimes, and increase enforcement efforts.

The petition was made with the support of CNMI Gov.

Ralph DLG. Torres, Guam Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua F. Tenorio, CNMI Senate Presi-

dent Victor B. Hocog, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, CNMI Public Safety Commissioner Robert A.

Guerrero, CNMI Customs Service director Jose C. Mafnas, and Drug Court manager Edward P. Diaz. (*PR*)

'Robocalls can range from mere annoyance to serious criminal activity'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Early last month, IT&E, a major telecommunications company in the CNMI, and its subscribers became a target of "robocalls" or "spoof calls," which raised concerns because these are some methods used to perpetuate fraud. Unlike Guam and the U.S. mainland, these events are not a normal occurrence in the CNMI, pushing local and federal law enforcement agencies to quickly warn the public to be diligent and not fall victim.

These robocalls can range from a mere annoyance to serious criminal activity, according to U.S. Attorney for Districts of Guam and NMI Shawn N. Anderson. "Unfortunately, the volume of these calls has increased nationwide over the past several years. The financial harm caused by tele-fraud schemes can be devastating to individuals, families, and entire communities," he said "The public should always use caution in disclosing personal information during the course of any call. This type of information is rarely requested over the phone by legitimate businesses and government agencies."

Criminal activity does not choose a perfect time to perpetuate fraud. In fact, the people behind these schemes take advantage of current events

like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has had an huge impact worldwide. The "spoof calls" experienced by IT&E subscribers in the middle of the night and in the morning of May 11 came with an automated voice speaking in Chinese delivering a recorded message and in the guise of local numbers starting with "783" and "285."

In an earlier memo released in March 25, 2020, Anderson's office warned the public about suspected fraud schemes related to COVID-19. Some of these schemes include individuals and businesses selling fake cures for COVID-19 online and engaging in other forms of fraud, phishing emails from entities posing as the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, malicious websites and apps that appear to share coronavirus-related information to gain and lock access to your devices until payment is received, seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations, and medical providers obtaining patient information for COVID-19 testing and using that information to fraudulently bill for other tests and procedures.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in Honolulu Hawaii also has released a public warning in March on COVID-19-re-

lated scams that steals a victim's personal and financial information. FBI Honolulu Field Office special agent Sam Miranda noted the increased online activity for work and study and advised people to be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19 worldwide.

A Guam resident said that spoof calls, scammers, and robocalls are almost a normal event in Guam. "I get calls from numbers with an area code from Chicago, Los Angeles, Florida, and recently from Tonga, a Polynesian sovereign state. I have a screening system built in my landline but sometimes if I am not alert, I answer the phone and it turns out to a robocall and then I cut the call right away," she said.

"The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense and the Mariana Regional Fusion Center work with local telecommunication companies here in monitoring reports of local subscribers receiving calls from unusual or unexpected international numbers from time to time," she added.

The CNMI Office of the Attorney General Edward Manibusan also released warnings on COVID-19 scams, which include email scams, telephone and text messaging scams, counterfeit product offers and high demand goods, bogus door to door and virus-related products, phony chari-

ties, and donation requests.

Manibusan's office also shared tips on how to protect your organization and homes that includes refraining from sharing links to remote meetings, conference calls or virtual classrooms or opening websites or social media profiles, not opening or clicking links from senders you do not recognize, verifying web address or legitimate websites, reporting suspicious activity on work computers to your employer, practicing good cyber security when accessing WiFi networks, including the use of strong passwords and WiFi protected access to name a few.

For parents, closely monitor children's use of "edtech" and online services and don't provide exact information on children when creating user profiles (e.g. use initials instead of full names, avoid using exact dates of birth, avoid including photos etc.).

According to Anderson, one of the challenges that local enforcers face is when robocalls originate from overseas, which can be difficult for them to investigate. "However, federal authorities will pursue these matters where evidence establishes a likely success in prosecution. Victims should not feel reluctant to report such fraud. We encourage them to contact the FBI at (671) 472-7465 or (808) 566-4300," he said.



USO Guam representatives and the Guam National Guard's Joint Task Force 671 soldiers and airmen gather for a photo at the Guam National Guard Barrigada Readiness Complex on June 17. "The Guam National Guard continually distinguishes itself as the very best in representing our nation and taking care of our island regardless of the circumstance," said USO Guam area director Leigh Leilani Graham. "The Guard, our island protectors, have been the front-liners since the very beginning and they are still at it. We hope they continue to call on us first and foremost for their needs. We love our Guam National Guard."

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/JOANNA DELFIN

CARE PACKAGES

USO Guam Tumon Bay Center Operations specialist Kenji Oku, center, and USO Guam Andersen Field Programs manager Regina Taimanglo speak to Guam National Guard Joint Task Force 671 commander Col. Ronnie Delfin about care packages at the Guam National Guard Barrigada Readiness Center June 17. USO Guam provided hundreds of care packages for guard members currently serving the island in support of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/JOANNA DELFIN



Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Coronavirus is back on the upswing and people are complaining about...masks?

Even as deaths from COVID-19 decline nationwide, there's been an upswing in cases in a number of states, including California, as more businesses reopen and more people go back to work. Nine states have hit new highs for daily or weekly infections reported, a sign that the first wave of the pandemic is still well underway.

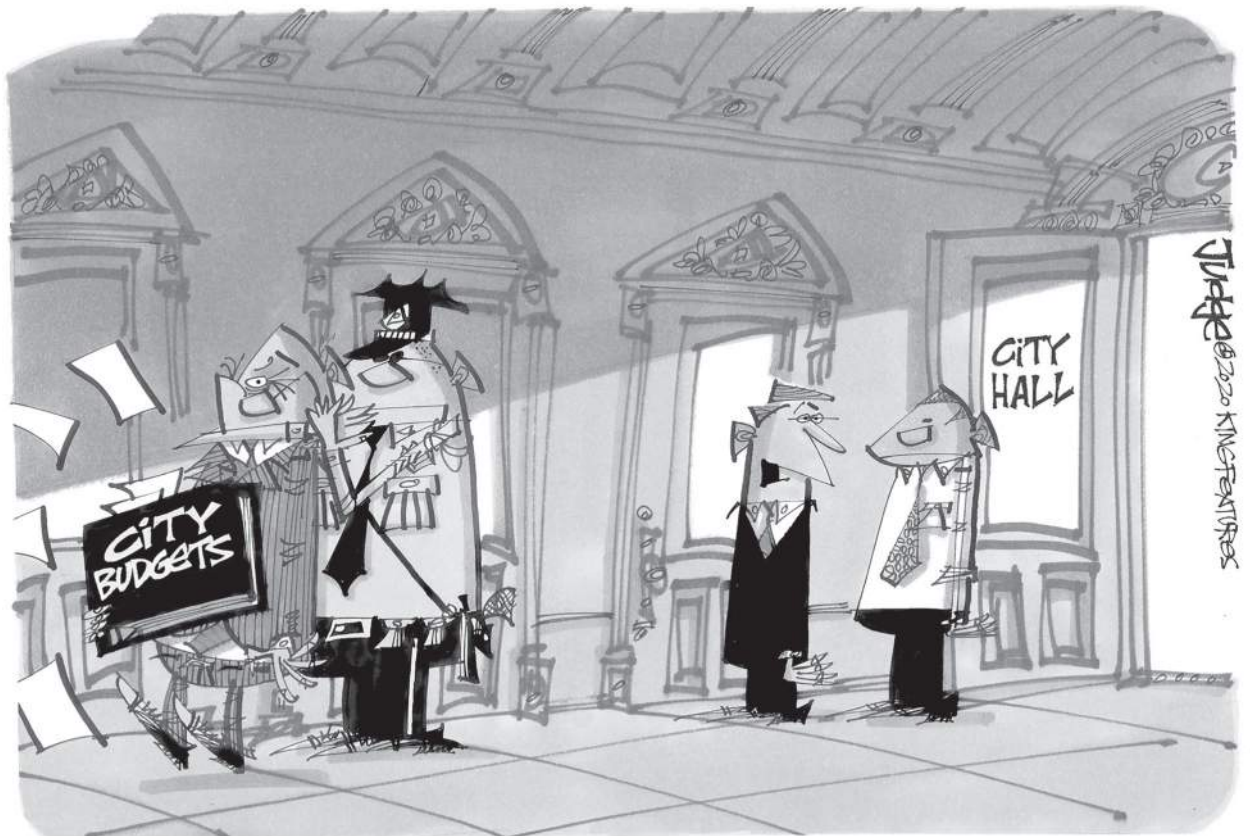
Under other circumstances, this kind of increase might not be cause for alarm. The number of cases naturally rises as testing expands and picks up mild infections that might have otherwise gone undetected. Same with the reopening of closed businesses. There's no way to avoid some additional spread of the virus with more people out and about in hair salons, bars, beaches and stores.

Nor can we keep the economy in a deep freeze until COVID-19 is vanquished, or else the financial toll of the pandemic will long outlast the disease. The trick is to keep hospitalizations and deaths low, and hospital capacity and the stockpile of medical supplies high, as California has done so far. That is difficult when people—too many, really—refuse to employ the simplest, easiest ways to keep transmission in check, such as wearing a face covering in public places and not congregating in large groups.

Some Americans have risen up against mask orders and the people who issued them, as if the mandates were some sort of tyranny rather than scientifically supported virus control measures. Some business are deliberately violating pandemic-related restrictions, and there's a dismayingly steady stream of reports of people partying in Arizona, Texas, Florida and right here in Los Angeles without regard for social distancing. And to be honest, some people have simply grown tired of being cautious.

It's as if people want to return to economically devastating shutdowns. Because that's what will happen if these coronavirus flare-ups start filling hospitals with COVID-19 patients.

And if flouting the laws of the land and of science weren't bad enough, there are the widespread attacks on health officials for telling the unpleasant truth about the coronavirus and taking steps to protect the public. For this they have been assailed, as a group and individually, as evil bureaucrats eager to strip away constitutional rights and destroy the economy. At least 27 health officials in 13 states have been forced out in the last two months either by pressure from elected officials, the stress of the job or threats and intimidation from angry constituents, according to a review by Kaiser Health News and The Associated Press.

See **CORONAVIRUS** on Next Page

"YOU'RE RIGHT...WE NEED TO BAN CHOKERHOLDS."

Fear of infection hurts the economy more than lockdowns

Until recently, it seemed like the contentious debate over lockdowns was over. By the end of May, many states were defying the warnings of public health experts, reopening restaurants, retail and public spaces.

The huge protests against police brutality and racism reinforced the notion that keeping Americans confined to their homes was a lost cause. Now, even San Francisco, one of the first cities to issue a stay-at-home order, is proceeding with a phased reopening of businesses and public spaces.

But reopening always came with a question mark. With the coronavirus still out there, would cases rise if stay-at-home orders were lifted? And if that happened, would lockdowns have to come back?

Unfortunately, while the hard-hit Northeast has mostly gotten its outbreak under control, almost half of the states, largely in the South and Southwest, are seeing a rise in new cases. In states such as Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida and Arizona, positive test ratios are rising, suggesting that a wave of new infections, rather than increased testing, is behind the increase. This has some experts asking which states will be the first to re-instate lockdown. Houston is already considering a new stay-at-home order.

The arguments for new localized lockdowns are strong. After all, the disease is the same as it was in March, so if lockdowns made sense then, why not now? And epidemiological evidence does show that stay-at-home orders were effective in suppressing the disease in the U.S., reducing a county's death rate by about 60% after three weeks. The easiest way to see the difference is simply to compare Sweden, which famously refused to implement a lockdown, to its Nordic neighbors, all of which made the opposite decision.

Despite this surge of deaths, Sweden still hasn't reached herd immunity, meaning more infections and loss of life are on the way. The epidemiologist who designed the country's strategy now says he regrets his choice.

But what about the economic damage? Sweden's economy is set to suffer a sharp contraction, but less than that of most other European countries. With the federal government considering whether to curtail the flow of relief money after the end of July, states and cities that shut down again might risk economic devastation.

There's good reason, though, to believe that most of the economic damage from the lockdowns weren't due to stay-at-home orders, but because of public fear of the virus. For example, people started avoiding restaurants before lockdowns began in late March:

More rigorous evidence confirms the finding. A recent paper by economists Lisa Kahn, Fabian Lange and David Wiczer uses data from a job-vacancy website, together with unemployment

By **NOAH SMITH**
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at [Noahpinion](http://Noahpinion.com).



claims, to measure the precise timing of coronavirus' economic toll. They found that lockdowns had very little to do with it:

The labor market collapsed at the same time across the U.S. irrespective of the state-level policies imposed. There is very little evidence that labor markets in states...that imposed stay-at-home orders earlier were differentially affected.

State lockdowns also didn't affect credit-card spending very much. Even in Scandinavia, economists estimate that lockdowns accounted for only a modest fraction of Denmark's economic underperformance relative to Sweden.

It might seem strange that lockdowns can be both effective at protecting people from coronavirus and yet not have a big impact on the economy. But it's definitely not impossible. There's growing scientific evidence that COVID-19 spreads primarily through prolonged indoor personal contact. By forcing people to work from home and socialize over the internet instead of filling crowded offices and social gatherings, lockdowns could protect public health without doing too much harm to the economy.

This suggests that new lockdowns need not be as restrictive as the ones in March to protect the public. Instead of mandating that everyone stay at home, they could simply ban large indoor social gatherings and indoor restaurant and bar seating, while requiring that companies continue work-from-home policies. Everything else—indoor retail, outdoor gatherings, small indoor social interactions—could be allowed, with the additional requirement that masks be worn in stores or at outdoor events.

This sort of lockdown-lite might achieve the best of both worlds for states and cities experiencing coronavirus spikes. But it also needs to be paired with vigorous testing, contact tracing and isolation of infected people. Most states still either haven't hired enough contact tracers to track new infections, or aren't doing enough testing—or both.

Together, this toolkit—masks, testing and tracing and targeted lockdown-lite—can control the virus until a treatment or vaccine arrives, while causing minimal damage to the economy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to file an Americans with Disabilities Act complaint

By DAWN MARGARET SABLAN

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Individuals with disabilities unfortunately continue to face barriers in access in our community. No matter how hard we fight for access at the community level, sometimes it is not enough to influence the government and private agencies to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Justice has made it easier to file claims against state, local government, or public accommodation, including private businesses who continue to discriminate against individuals with disabilities, by failing to provide appropriate access and/or reasonable accommodations. When you file a claim with the Department of Justice, your complaint goes to the Disability Rights Section for processing and review.

A. To file an Americans with Disabilities complaint online visit: <https://www.ada.gov/complaint/>

B. To file an Americans with Disabilities complaint by mail, send the completed complaint form to:

C. U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section
Washington, D.C. 20530

D. To file an Americans with Disabilities complaint by facsimile, send the completed complaint form to: (202) 307-1197

1. What information should my ADA complaint include?

Provide the following information:

■ Your full name, address, the telephone numbers where we can reach you during the day and evening, and the name of the party discriminated against (if known);

■ The name and address of the business, organization, institution, or person that you believe has committed the discrimination;

■ A brief description of the acts of discrimination, the dates they occurred, and the names of individuals involved;

■ Other information you believe necessary to support your complaint, including copies (not originals) of relevant documents;

CORONAVIRUS

From Page 10

One of them was Dr. Nichole Quick, the health officer for Orange County, who was verbally attacked by some residents who were outraged—outraged!—that their freedom to spew potentially deadly microbes could be curtailed by a single unelected bureaucrat. Quirk was harangued, threatened and doxxed by critics who argued that face coverings make it hard to see when you drive (maybe you shouldn't wear them over your eyes?) and that they reduce oxygen intake to dangerous levels (there's plenty of expert advice online on how to exercise safely with a mask on). Instead of supporting her, Orange County supervisors and the sheriff joined the dog pile. Ignorance won the day; the mask order was rescinded and replaced with a recommendation that will probably be widely ignored even as coronavirus cases and deaths continue to rise in the county.

Not wearing a face covering and ignoring social distancing protocols when shopping or gathering in places where there are people you don't know isn't expressing your liberty. It's dangerous and disrespectful to older, immuno-compromised and lower-income Americans, all of whom are at higher risk of dying of COVID-19. Anecdotes, history and scientific studies provide convincing data that, when worn properly, masks impede transmission of all sorts of viruses. And recent studies show that covering the face in public is an effective way to control COVID-19 infections. Yet a poll this month found that only half of the participants regularly do cover their mouths and noses in public. Have Americans really become so soft and entitled that they can't handle a little inconvenience to protect others in their community from sickness and death?

During World War II, the government called upon every American to make personal sacrifices for the good of the nation. Americans need to chip in for the greater good once again. But instead of being asked to sacrifice food, gasoline or their very lives, they are being asked to endure some slight inconveniences for just a little while longer. Wear a mask. Don't gather in crowds. Maintain social distancing. Is that so hard?

(c)2020 Los Angeles Times

ments; and

■ Information about how to communicate with you effectively. Please let us know if you want written communications in a specific format (e.g., large print, Braille, electronic documents) or require communications by video phone or TTY.

You may use the ADA online complaint form for any ADA complaint, but you are not required to do so.

2. What accommodations may I request if I cannot prepare my own ADA complaint because of my disability?

■ If you are unable to write because of your disability and are unable to submit a complaint online, by mail, or facsimile, the Department can assist you by scribing your complaint by phone or, for individuals who communicate by American Sign Language, by videophone.

■ Contact the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TTY) to schedule an appointment. Please be advised that it may take two weeks or more for department staff to contact you.

3. What happens after my complaint is received?

After the complaint is received and reviewed, we will inform you of our action, which may include:

■ Contacting you for additional information or copies of relevant documents;

■ Referring your complaint for possible resolution through the ADA Mediation Program;

■ Referring your complaint to the United States Attorney's Office in your area for investigation;

■ Referring your complaint to another federal agency with responsibility for the types of issues you have raised.

■ Investigating your complaint; or

■ Considering your complaint for possible litigation by the Department of Justice.

We cannot investigate or litigate every complaint. If we are unable to take any action on your complaint, we will send you a letter telling you this.

4. How can I find out the status of my complaint?

We review each complaint carefully. Because we receive a large volume of ADA complaints from people throughout the United States, our review can take up to three months. If you have not heard from us by the end of this three-month period, you can find out the status of your complaint by calling the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TTY). A member of our staff will contact you to tell you if your complaint has been received and if it is still under consideration for possible action.

5. What happens if my complaint is referred for possible mediation?

The ADA Mediation Program is an important part of ADA compliance. Using professional ADA-trained mediators

throughout the United States, mediation is a confidential, voluntary way to resolve ADA complaints fairly and quickly. Types of complaints most appropriate for this program include barrier removal, program accessibility, effective communication, and modification of policies, practices, and procedures. If we determine that your complaint is appropriate for mediation, we will contact you and the entity you complained about to find out if you are both willing to participate in mediation.

6. What happens if my complaint is opened for investigation?

If your complaint is opened for investigation, an investigator or attorney will be assigned and will contact you to obtain additional information. During the investigation, the attorney or investigator will not necessarily make a determination about whether or not an ADA violation has occurred. If he or she believes there is a pattern or practice of discrimination or the complaint raises an issue of general public importance, DRS may attempt to negotiate a formal settlement of the matter, or may file a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of the United States. We do not act as an attorney for, or representative of, the complainant.

7. How will the information in my complaint be used?

This information collection is for the purpose of allowing the Department of Justice's Disability Rights Section to engage in authorized civil rights compliance and enforcement activities. Providing the information is voluntary, except that failure to provide such information may result in DRS being unable to process your complaint. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, authorize the solicitation of the information for this form. DRS will not disclose your name or other identifying information about you unless it is necessary for enforcement activities against an entity alleged to have violated federal law, required to be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, disclosure is permitted pursuant to the Privacy Act, or is otherwise required by law.

For more information or questions visit https://www.ada.gov/filing_complaint.htm or call the ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-800-514-0383. ADA Specialists are available to answer questions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30am to 5:30pm (Eastern Time). On Thursday, the Information Line is staffed from 12:30pm to 5:30pm (Eastern Time).

If you need further assistance in regards to filing a DOJ claim, information about the Americans with Disabilities Act, and accessibility, contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit us on the web at www.nmpasi.org, www.facebook.com/NMPASI, and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

Dawn Margaret Sarmiento Sablan is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

T.O.A.S.T. Ghost D.R.E.A.M.S.

Growing Up on West Hill Road 'A'

Father was a violent drunk, we called him Daddy he swore like the WWII Navy sailor that he was brother Mike lean, Peter a heavyweight, me a fatty Mother was a pillar of strength, good thing she was. All five of us kids were born by Caesarean section in St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira upstate New York we learned right and wrong under Daddy's direction Mother taught love & kindness, use of knife and fork. Daddy called us boys halfwits, the girls were angels Mary's looks favored our French side, Ellie the Dutch. We all played down by the creek in burdock tangles for Christmas and birthdays we never got too much. We had many happy times growing up on West Hill Mother cooked great food, growing up was real thrill.

I am Past I have Passed I'm Out

I am past, I have passed, I'm out and about
Many dear old friends are dead and gone too
I am a memory of myself without a doubt
Thoughts coming and going out of the blue
Like old lovers and funerals happy and sad
Yet they are all gone like the morning dew

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



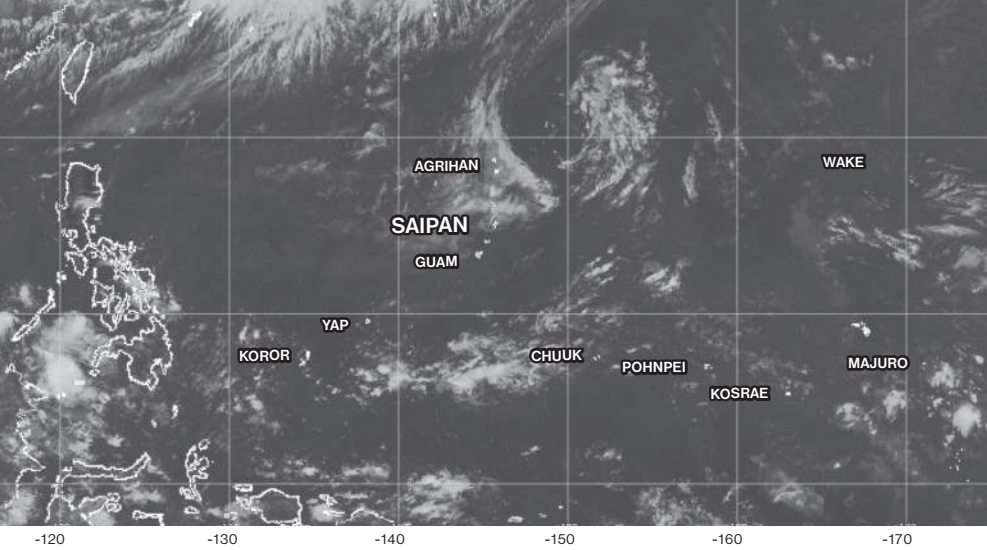
Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

"into the nothingness" of former old times *
Into a Philippine Sea of sinigang dreams
Where senior memories sing simple rhymes
Of lovely days my heart and soul esteems
My dear Tinian students and their parents
I love the best alas many now gone to rest
Dreams of Tinian cliffs where I've slept
Loving memories in my heart I've kept.

**Phrase from John Clare (1793 – 1864)
"Into the nothingness of scorn and noise
Into the living sea of waking dreams."*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, primarily south of Guam. Satellite indicates an upper-level low near 19N and 151E. Lightning data shows that this low is now producing thunderstorms in the northern CNMI, mainly Agrihan and Pagan. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- Continue good hand hygiene**
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**
- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control
During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:21 AM	7:46 PM	-
Tuesday	7:18 AM	8:41 PM	-
Wednesday	8:17 AM	9:33 PM	-
Thursday	9:16 AM	10:22 PM	-
Friday	10:14 AM	11:09 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	55° / 45°	
Beijing	Showers	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 64°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	59° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	84° / 65°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	93° / 74°	
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 56°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:28 AM	LOW TIDE	1.46	
7:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01	
2:37 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.19	
9:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.06	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

Kinpachi reopens Japanese outlet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A pioneer in the local Japanese culinary scene is slowly emerging from the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic. A few weeks after Kinpachi Restaurant reopened its outdoor barbecue section, the establishment recently welcomed back customers to its main restaurant.

"Since we reopened the BQQ Garden Restaurant last May 28, we have been receiving requests for dine-in reservation for a family. We've opened only the reservation area of our restaurant; the main [dining area] is still closed as we are taking precautions for social distancing, so we're [limiting] the numbers of our dine-in customers," said restaurant manager Sonia Siwa.

Kinpachi Restaurant is not back at full strength yet and its menu shows it, Siwa said. "As much as possible we want to serve the full menu but our stocks are also limited. We're starting to purchase new supplies and it depends on the availability of the stocks on the island. Our suppliers are experiencing late shipments of supplies," she said.

The restaurant can still serve fresh fish for sashimi and sushi



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kinpachi Restaurant has limited the occupancy of customers to 50%.



Kinpachi Restaurant's tempura set.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

depending on the "catch of the day." As a fallback, customers can still order Kinpachi's tried-and-tested bento-style barbecue set (grilled pork chop, grilled short ribs, stick of yakitori with rice and pickles) for only \$8.

As for safety measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Kinpachi Restaurant has limited the occupancy of customers to 50%, put up one-way flow signs for their entrance and exit, and made hand sanitizers readily avail-

Japan's economy reopening cautiously, balancing health risks

TOKYO (AP)—The roller coasters are back running in Tokyo but with requests to not scream. Restaurants are offering more take-out and outdoor seating. Major retailer Uniqlo's new "cool and dry" mask, three for 990 yen (\$9), sold out Friday shortly after it was put on the shelves.

Japan's economy is opening cautiously, with social-distancing restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The delicate "new normal" balancing act playing out around the world is precarious but imperative for Japan, whose long stagnant economy sorely needs tourism, exports and thriving small businesses to avoid sliding deeper into recession.

Yoshimasa Maruyama, chief market economist at SMBC Nikko Securities, said although Japan's coronavirus restrictions were never as strict as the lockdowns in the

U.S., Europe and some other parts of Asia, the damage was still considerable.

Japan's economy was already hurting from a tax increase last year. Then auto exports to the U.S. and Europe plunged when the coronavirus hit. Consumer spending is unlikely to recover quickly.

"Americans may feel happy and go splurging after the lockdown is lifted. But the Japanese mind set tends to become even more cautious about spending because of uncertainties about the future," Maruyama said.

A return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity is not expected for Japan until 2023, a year after a likely recovery in the U.S., he said.

Although shuttered businesses are opening again, fewer seats are allowed at theaters, events and hostess and host bars. Masked clerks peer from behind plastic curtains at stores

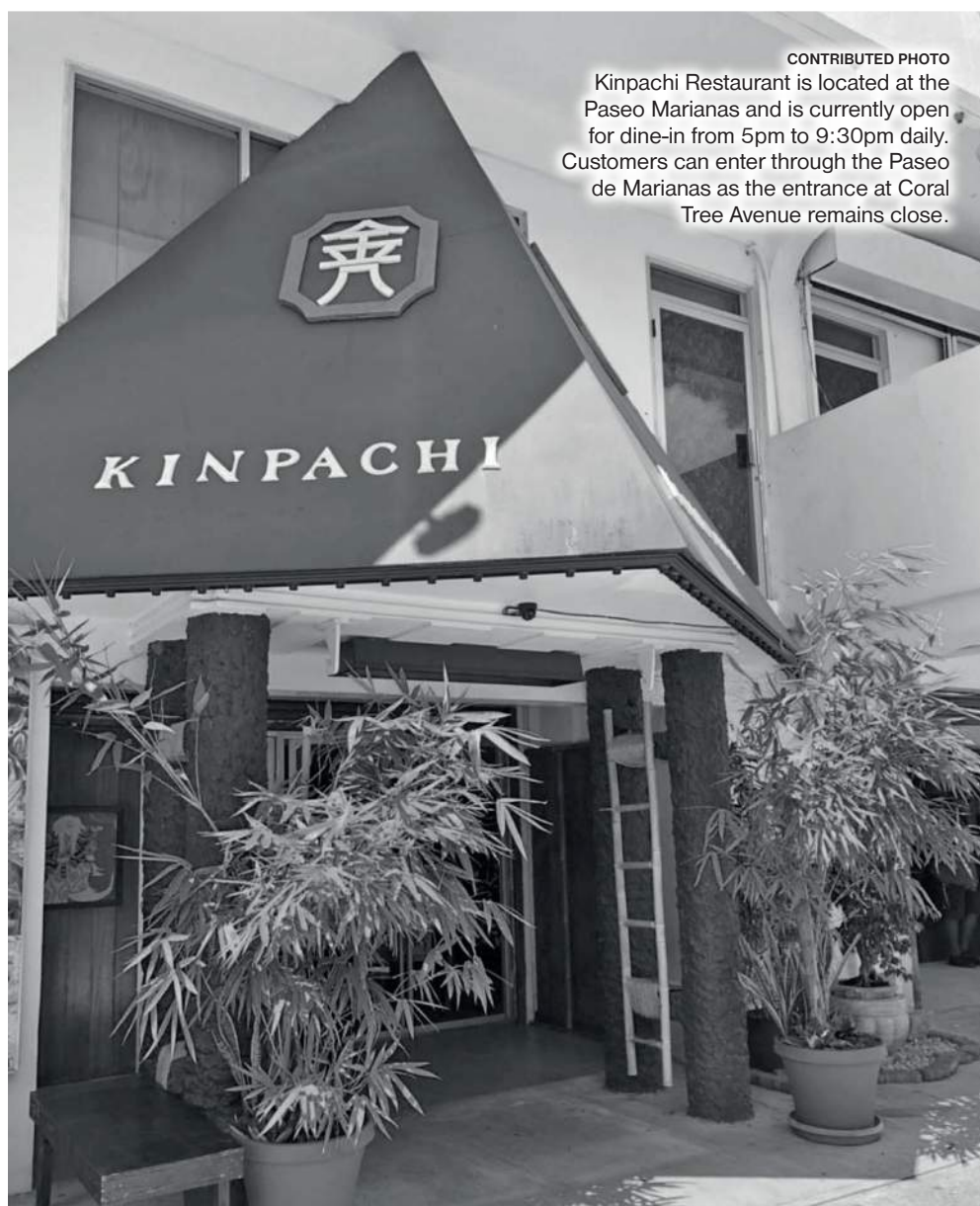
where temperatures are checked and hands disinfected at the entrance. Professional baseball is playing to empty stands.

Masks, worn by many Japanese already anyway due to a near national allergy to cedar pollen, are the dress code everywhere.

Japan's exports and imports have plunged. The world's third largest economy has contracted for two straight quarters and is already officially in recession.

The Tokyo Olympics, the big symbol of hope for the economy, has been postponed until next year, costing billions of dollars to the capital, although the exact amount has not been disclosed.

The government has announced 230 trillion yen (\$2 trillion) in stimulus, including help for local businesses and cash handouts of 100,000 yen (\$930) per adult to coax consumers into spending.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kinpachi Restaurant is located at the Paseo Marianas and is currently open for dine-in from 5pm to 9:30pm daily. Customers can enter through the Paseo de Marianas as the entrance at Coral Tree Avenue remains close.

able on each table as well as at the counter and cashier's area. Staff are required to wear face masks when taking orders and serving customers and they have placed 6-foot markers leading to the cashier's area. A plexiglass barrier has been installed at the cashier's counter, all table and chair surfaces and door handles are frequently sanitized (cooler and freezers as well as), and cooks and service staff have completed

the "Record of Training" from ServSafe Re-Opening Guidance: COVID-19 Precautions.

Kinpachi Restaurant is located at the Paseo Marianas and is currently open for dine-in from 5pm to 9:30pm daily. Customers can enter through the Paseo de Marianas as the entrance at Coral Tree Avenue remains close. Siwa suggest that customers call and reserve a day in advance.

"Our staff is not in full force

yet. The working hours are limited since we open dinner-time only for dine-in service. They're all excited to go back to work. We've been closed for more than two months and they missed their jobs. ... We're also really grateful to our valued customers' continued patronage of our restaurant," said Siwa.

For reservations or for more information, call 234-6900 and 233-7715.

Chileans mass produce caskets to deal with COVID onslaught

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Nicolás Bergerie's family has been making coffins for four generations, with barely any alteration. But when he saw the coronavirus ravaging Europe, he decided to roll out a new product.

The "COVID" is a casket that eliminates precious woods, detailed carvings and glass viewing panes in favor of a plain box of cheaper wood that is fast to produce in quantity. It's the perfect product for Chile, which has become a hot spot for the virus despite aggressive government measures to control its spread.

On Friday, Chile's 230,000 cases made it ninth in the world in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections, despite its relatively small population of fewer than 19 million people. With

more than 5,000 new cases reported on a typical day, next week Chile is expected to pass Italy in the ranks of most-infected countries.

With more than 4,000 dead in Chile, Bergerie's business, Bergut Funeral Services, has seen its orders boom. He said the workshop is making 100 coffins a week, double the pre-pandemic number, although the cheaper caskets mean his income has dropped by half.

"We looked at the international experience and we started to turn out more coffins because we understood what was coming," said Manuel González, the head of the workshop.

The Chilean government reported 252 deaths Friday, the highest number since the virus that can cause COVID-19 disease arrived in Chile

in early March. Most infections and deaths are concentrated in the capital, Santiago.

The true scale of the outbreak goes far beyond the official numbers—Chile is daily carrying out as many as 20,000 virus tests, and about 30% are coming back positive, a strong sign that many infections have gone undetected.

Officials admit their effort to battle the virus is falling short, particularly in tracing and isolating those who come into contact with infected people.

The pandemic has pushed the Chilean medical system close to collapse—intensive-care units in Santiago are at 96% of capacity, and that is only because dozens of patients have been sent to regional hospitals to ease the burden on those in the capital.

Nation

Supporters, protesters face off outside Trump rally

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—President Donald Trump's supporters faced off with protesters shouting "Black Lives Matter" Saturday in Tulsa as the president held his first campaign rally in months amid public health concerns about the coronavirus and fears that the event could lead to violence in the wake of killings of Black people by police.

Hundreds of marchers flooded the city's downtown streets and blocked traffic at times, but police reported just one arrest as of Saturday afternoon. Many on foot chanted, and some occasionally got into shouting matches with Trump supporters, who outnumbered them and yelled, "all lives matter."

Later in the evening, a group of armed men began following the protesters. When the protesters blocked an intersection, a man wearing a Trump shirt got out of a truck and spattered them with pepper spray. Police later deployed an irritant gas to try and make the group disperse.

The Trump faithful gathered inside the 19,000-seat BOK Center for what was believed to be the largest indoor event in the country since restrictions to prevent the COVID-19 virus began in March. Many of the president's supporters weren't wearing masks, despite the recommendation of public health officials to keep the coronavirus from spreading. Some had been camped near the venue since early in the week.



President Donald Trump arrives on stage to speak at a campaign rally at the BOK Center, Saturday, June 20, 2020, in Tulsa, Okla.

Turnout at the rally was lower than the campaign predicted, with a large swath of standing room on the stadium floor and empty seats in the balconies. Trump had been scheduled to appear at a rally outside of the stadium within a perimeter of tall metal barriers, but that event was abruptly cancelled.

Trump campaign officials said protesters prevented the president's supporters from entering the stadium. Three

Associated Press journalists reporting in Tulsa for several hours leading up to the president's speaking did not see protesters block entry to the area where the rally was held.

While Trump spoke on stage, protesters carried a paper-mache representation of him with a pig snout. Some in the multiracial group wore Black Lives Matter shirts, others sported rainbow-colored armbands, and many covered their mouths and noses with

masks. At one point, several people stopped to dance to gospel singer Kirk Franklin's song "Revolution."

The protesters blocked traffic in at least one intersection. Some Black leaders in Tulsa had said they were worried the visit could lead to violence. It came amid protests over racial injustice and policing across the U.S. and in a city that has a long history of racial tension. Officials had said they expected some 100,000 people downtown.

The woman who was arrested was seen on live video

sitting cross-legged on the ground in peaceful protest when officers pulled her away by the arms and later put her in handcuffs. She said her name was Sheila Buck and that she was from Tulsa.

Police said in a news release the officers tried for several minutes to talk Buck into leaving and that she was taken into custody for obstruction after police were asked by the Trump campaign to remove her from the area.

Buck was wearing a T-shirt that said "I Can't Breathe"—

the dying words of George Floyd, whose death has inspired a global push for racial justice. She said she had a ticket to the Trump rally and was told she was being arrested for trespassing. She said she was not part of any organized group.

Several blocks away from the BOK Center was a festival-like atmosphere, with food vendors serving hot dogs and cold drinks and sidewalks lined with people selling various Trump regalia.

There was also an undercurrent of tension near the entrance to the secured area, where Trump supporters and opponents squared off. Several downtown businesses boarded up their windows as well to avoid any potential damage.

Kieran Mullen, 60, a college professor from Norman, Oklahoma, held a sign that read "Black Lives Matter" and "Dump Trump."

"I just thought it was important for people to see there are Oklahomans that have a different point of view," Mullen said of his state, which overwhelmingly supported Trump in 2016.

Brian Bernard, 54, a retired information technology worker from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, sported a Trump 2020 hat as he took a break from riding his bicycle around downtown. Next to him was a woman selling Trump T-shirts and hats, flying a "Keep America Great Again" flag. Her shirt said, "Impeach this," with an image of Trump extending his middle fingers.

NC governor orders removal of Confederate statues in Raleigh

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Crews on Saturday removed two Confederate statues outside the North Carolina State Capitol in Raleigh on order of the governor, the morning after protesters toppled two nearby statues.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, who has long advocated removing the statues, said in a news release that removing the statues was a public-safety imperative.

"If the legislature had repealed their 2015 law that puts up legal roadblocks to removal we could have avoided the dangerous incidents of last night," Cooper said.

The statues removed Saturday include one statue dedicated to the women of the Confederacy, and another placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy honoring Henry Wyatt, the first North Carolinian killed in battle in the Civil War.

Both statues stood for over

a century.

On Friday night, protesters pulled down two statues of two Confederate soldiers that were part of a larger obelisk. Earlier in the evening police had thwarted a previous attempt to topple the figures. But after the officers cleared the area, protesters mounted the obelisk and were able to take down the statues.

The statues were dragged down the street and one was strung up by its neck from a light post.

Cooper said Saturday that the remaining parts of that memorial would be removed as well.

A 2015 law bars removal of the memorials without permission of a state historical commission. But Cooper said the law creates an exception for public-safety emergencies, and he is acting under that provision.

On Saturday, Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest issued

a statement condemning the protesters' actions and blaming Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper.

"North Carolinians should be shocked by the utter lawlessness that occurred in downtown Raleigh once again last night, this time on the State Capitol grounds. While Gov. Cooper shifted blame when our cities were looted and buildings were damaged, he has no excuses this time. Last night's destruction occurred on state property, right next to his office. It is clear that Gov. Cooper is either incapable of upholding law and order, or worse, encouraging this behavior," Forest said.

Pamela Walker, spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Safety, said several State Capitol Police officers were injured in the initial repulsion of protesters from the monuments Friday night.

Trump suggests US slow virus testing to avoid bad statistics

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—President Donald Trump said Saturday he's asked his administration to slow down coronavirus testing because robust testing turns up too many cases of COVID-19.

Trump told supporters at his campaign rally that the U.S. has tested 25 million people, far more than any other country. The "bad part," Trump said, is that widespread testing leads to logging more cases of the virus.

"When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more people, you're going to find more cases," Trump said. "So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down, please.' They test and they test."

The campaign of likely Democratic presidential rival, Joe Biden, said Trump was putting politics ahead of the safety and health of Americans.

Trump opted to hold his first rally in 110 days despite

concerns from local health officials that it could lead to further spread of the virus in Tulsa. Most of those in attendance declined to wear a mask.

"In an outrageous moment that will be remembered long after tonight's debacle of a rally, President Trump just admitted that he's putting politics ahead of the safety and economic well-being of the American people—even as we just recorded the highest number of new COVID-19 cases in almost two months and 20 million workers remain out of work, according to the Biden campaign's statement:

The outbreak has killed about 120,000 people in the U.S., and nearly a half-million worldwide, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University, though the real numbers are believed to be higher.

The number of newly confirmed cases per day has risen

from about 21,400 two weeks ago to 23,200, according to an Associated Press analysis. And in Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arizona—states that loosened their stay-at-home restrictions early—daily deaths have been quietly rising since early June.

"This virus has killed nearly 120,000 Americans and cost tens of millions their jobs, in large part because this president could not and would not mobilize testing as quickly as we needed it," according to the Biden campaign statement. "To hear him say tonight that he has ordered testing slowed—a transparent attempt to make the numbers look better—is appalling."

Rising case numbers can partially be explained by the wider availability of testing. Mild cases, previously undetected because of limits on who could be tested, are now showing up in the numbers.

Asia

Pandemic becomes a patchwork of small successes and setbacks

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in China appeared to be winning their battle against an outbreak of coronavirus in Beijing on Saturday, but in parts of the Americas the pandemic raged unabated. Brazil surpassed 1 million confirmed infections, second only to the United States.

Europe, in contrast, continued to emerge warily from lockdown, with hard-hit Britain considering easing social distancing rules to make it easier for restaurants, pubs and schools to reopen. In Italy, once the pandemic's European epicenter, Pope Francis told medics that their heroic efforts during the outbreak would help the country forge a future of hope and solidarity.

The head of the World Health Organization warned Friday that the pandemic is "accelerating" and that more than 150,000 cases were reported the day before—the highest single-day number so far.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva that nearly half of the newly reported cases were from the Americas, with significant numbers from South Asia and the Middle East.

The new coronavirus has infected more than 8.5 million people worldwide and killed more than 454,000, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The actual number is thought to be much higher because many cases are asymptomatic or go untested.

The global battle against COVID-19 is a patchwork



A woman holds on to the shirt of a child using a net to look for fish as they wear masks to curb the spread of the coronavirus along a canal in Beijing on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

of successes and setbacks at this point in the pandemic, quantified by the trajectory of the coronavirus in different countries.

In China, where the virus was first identified and where authorities hoped it had been vanquished, Beijing recorded a further drop in cases amid tightened containment measures. Officials reported 22 new cases in Beijing along with five others elsewhere in China. There were no new deaths and 308 people remained hospital-

ized for treatment.

South Korea, which has won global praise for its handling of the coronavirus, recorded 67 new cases, the largest 24-hour increase in about three weeks. Most of them come from the densely populated Seoul area, where about half of the country's 51 million people reside. Many cases have been linked to exposure in nightlife outlets.

Brazil's Health Ministry said the total number of cases had risen by more than 50,000 from the previous day. Presi-

dent Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 fatalities in three months, saying the impact of social isolation on Brazil's economy could be more deadly.

South Africa continues to loosen lockdown measures under economic pressure, despite reporting nearly 4,000 more COVID-19 cases on Saturday. Casinos, beauty salons and sit-down restaurant service are among the

latest permitted activities as the country eases one of the world's strictest lockdowns. South Africa has about 30% of the virus cases on the African continent, or more than 87,000.

South Africa and Ethiopia both said they are recommending the limited use of the commonly available steroid dexamethasone for all COVID-19 patients on ventilators or supplementary oxygen. In a British trial, the drug was

shown to significantly improve survival chances for the most seriously ill.

South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said "this breakthrough is excellent news for us and we are especially fortunate that it came as we are preparing for our upcoming surge" in cases.

Britain lowered its coronavirus threat level one notch, becoming the latest country to claim it's getting a national outbreak under control.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government said it would announce next week whether it will ease social distancing rules that say people should remain 2 meters (6½ feet) apart. Business groups are lobbying for the distance to be cut to 1 meter (3 feet) to make it easier to restart the U.K.'s economy.

While many stores in Britain have reopened, pubs, hotels and restaurants won't be allowed to resume serving customers until July 4 at the soonest. Proposals to allow them to reopen safely include pubs having people order pints using phone apps rather than going to the bar.

The U.K. has Europe's highest and the world's third-highest official death toll from the pandemic, with more than 42,500 virus-related fatalities reported as of Saturday.

Italy, which for a time this spring had the most coronavirus cases and deaths in the world, continued receiving confirmation that the worst had receded.

South Korea sees most new cases in 3 weeks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea reported 67 new cases of the coronavirus on Saturday, the largest daily jump in about three weeks amid an upward trend in new infections.

Health authorities said 31 of the new cases came from overseas while the rest were locally infected. It was the largest daily increase since 79 cases were reported on May 28.

The country has confirmed 12,373 cases, including 280 deaths.

South Korea has been struggling to contain a spike in virus transmissions since early May, when it eased social distancing rules. Most of the new cases have been reported in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where about half of the country's 51 million people live.

The new cases have been linked to nightlife establish-

ments, church services, a big e-commerce warehouse and door-to-door salespeople.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ China's capital has recorded a further drop in new confirmed coronavirus cases as tightened measures to contain the spread remain in place. Officials reported 22 new cases in Beijing on Saturday, along with five others elsewhere in the country. No new deaths were reported and 308 people remain hospitalized. One of the Beijing cases is a nurse at a hospital in the suburban Changping district. The Peking University International Hospital where she worked is now under tightened restrictions, along with residential communities in the surrounding area. A total of 205 people have been diagnosed with the virus in Beijing since the outbreak began

last week, with at least two of them critically ill and 11 others in serious condition.

■ Australia's Victoria state is set to reimpose household restrictions on Monday after recording double-digit increases in COVID-19 cases for a fourth consecutive day. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews says household gatherings will be restricted to five guests and outdoor gatherings to 10 people until midnight July 12. Victoria recorded 25 new cases on Saturday, the biggest daily increase in two months. The planned easing of restrictions for cafes, restaurants and pubs, from a maximum of 20 guests to a maximum of 50, will be deferred for three weeks. Businesses that are set to open for the first time Monday, including gyms and cinemas, will be allowed to do so but with a maximum of 20 people.

China claims valley where Indian, Chinese soldiers brawled

NEW DELHI (AP)—China said the Galwan Valley high up in the Himalayan border region where Chinese and Indian troops engaged in a deadly brawl this week falls entirely within China, boldly renewing claims on the disputed area as the Asian giants continued using military and diplomatic channels to try to reduce tensions on Saturday.

The confrontation in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier, was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years. India blames China for instigating the fight by developing infrastructure in the valley, which it said was a breach of the agreement of what area remained in dispute.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in a statement Friday that "the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control in the west section of the China-India boundary."



He blamed incursions by Indian troops in the area from early May for a midnight clash on Monday that left 20 Indian soldiers dead. China has not said whether it suf-

fered any casualties.

Soldiers brawled with clubs, rocks and their fists in the thin air at 4,270 meters (14,000 feet) above sea level, but no shots were fired, Indian officials have said. The soldiers carry firearms but are not allowed to use them under a previous agreement in the border dispute.

Indian security officials have said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

The valley falls within a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control—the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava repeated on Saturday that China's claims to the valley were "exaggerated and untenable."

World

Brazil tops 1 million cases as coronavirus spreads inland

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's government confirmed on Friday that the country has risen above 1 million confirmed coronavirus cases, second only to the United States.

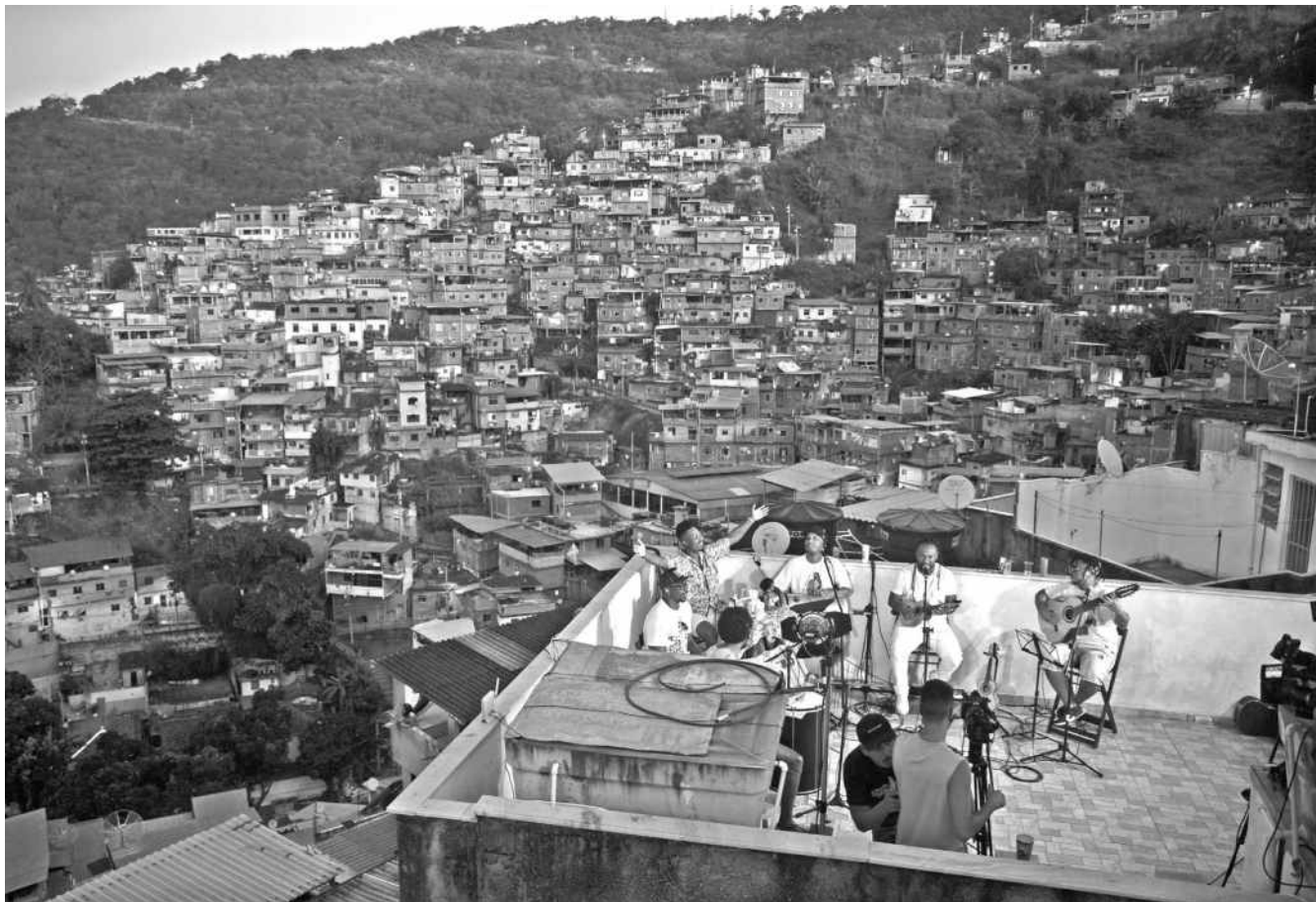
The country's health ministry said that the total now stood at 1,032,913, up more than 50,000 from Thursday. The ministry said the sharp increase was due to corrections of previous days' underreported numbers.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro still downplays the risks of the virus after nearly 50,000 deaths from COVID-19 in three months, saying the impact of social isolation measures on the economy could be worse than the disease itself.

Specialists believe the actual number of cases in Brazil could be up to seven times higher than the official statistic. Johns Hopkins University says Brazil is performing an average of 14 tests per 100,000 people each day, and health experts say that number is up to 20 times less than needed to track the virus.

Official data show a downward trend of the virus in Brazil's north, including the hard-hit region of the Amazon, a plateau in cases and deaths in the countries' biggest cities near the Atlantic coast, but a rising curve in the south.

In the Brazilian countryside, which is much less prepared to handle a crisis, the pandemic is clearly growing. Many smaller cities have weaker health care systems and basic



Members of the "Tempero de Criola" band perform amid the new coronavirus pandemic at the Turano favela, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, June 19, 2020. AP

sanitation that's insufficient to prevent contagion.

"There is a lot of regional inequality in our public health system and a shortage of professionals in the interior," said Miguel Lago, executive director of Brazil's Institute for Health Policy Studies, which advises public health officials. "That creates many health care deserts, with people going long distances to get attention. When they leave the hospital, the virus can go with them."

The cattle-producing state of Mato Grosso was barely touched by the virus when it hit the nation's biggest cities in March. Sitting far from the coast, between the Bolivian border and Brazil's capital of Brasilia, its 3.3 million residents led a mostly normal life until May. But now its people live under lockdown and meat producers have dozens of infected workers.

In Tangará da Serra, a city of 103,000 people in Mato

Grosso, the mayor decided Friday to forbid the sale of alcoholic drinks for two weeks as an incentive for people to stay home. Fábio Junqueira said the measure was needed after a spike in COVID-19 cases that filled 80% of the city's 54 intensive care beds. The city has had nearly 300 cases of the disease, plus three fatalities.

In Rondonópolis, only 300 miles away from Tangará da Serra and home to a thriving economy, health authorities closed the local meatpacking industry after 92 cases were

confirmed there. The city of 144,000 inhabitants counted 21 deaths from the virus and more than 600 cases. The mayor has also decided to limit sales of alcoholic beverages.

Even regions once considered examples of successful efforts against the virus are now struggling.

Porto Alegre, home to about 1.4 million people, had success in slowing the virus' spread over the last three months. But now its mayor is considering increasing social isolation measures after ICU occupancy in the city jumped

to 80% this month.

"We were already making projections for schools to come back," Mayor Nelson Marchezan Jr. told The Associated Press. "Now the trend is to impose more restrictions."

Outside Sao Paulo city, five regions of the state's countryside will have to close shops starting Monday due to a rise in coronavirus cases. Gov. João Doria announced the decision Friday.

Dr. Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's executive director, said at a news conference that Brazil needs to increase its efforts to stop the spread of infections.

"The epidemic is still quite severe in Brazil. I believe health workers are working extremely hard and under pressure to be able to deal with the number of cases that they see on a daily basis," Ryan said. "Certainly the rise is not as exponential as it was previously, so there are some signs that the situation is stabilizing. But we've seen this before in other epidemics in other countries."

Margareth Dalcolmo, a clinical researcher and professor of respiratory medicine at the state-funded Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, believes the reopening in major cities and the virus traveling by road into Brazil's heartland will keep the pressure on the country's health system.

"The risk in the interior now is very big," she said. "Our health system just can't solve the most serious cases of COVID in many places of the countryside."

French protesters decry racism, other systemic injustices

PARIS (AP)—Hundreds of people in Paris protested Saturday against racism and police violence and in memory of Black men who died following encounters with French police or under suspicious circumstances.

Many protesters congregated in the central Place de la République. Some carried a placard bearing the words "Justice For Ibo," a reference to Ibrahima Bah, 22, who died in an October motorbike crash in the Paris suburbs of Villiers-le-Bel while allegedly trying to escape a police check. Bah's family blames the police for his death.

The protesters marched to the former home of Lamine Dieng, a 25-year-old Franco-Senegalese man arrested in 2007 who died in a police van. A separate demonstration in support of undocumented workers that drew hundreds of protesters planned to join up with the anti-racism march.

Last week, it emerged

that the French government agreed to pay 145,000 euros (\$162,000) to Dieng's relatives after protracted legal wrangling.

"We are here to show that from now on we are going to create a resistance movement...and that there should be no more Lamine Diengs," Franco Lollia of the the Brigade Anti-Negrophobie, a French activist group, said at Saturday's demonstration.

Others linked the protest with the case of George Floyd, an African American man whose death in the U.S. city of Minneapolis galvanized protesters around the globe to rally against racism and police brutality.

"It's a reality we hear that there are people currently who are killed by the police. George Floyd was the hair that broke the camel's back in the United States, but it's not just George Floyd," demonstrator Lylyia Boukerrouche.

"In France, though it's different, it's a similar situation. It was a colonial state, and we see that today police violence occurs against Blacks and Arabs, the descendants of immigrants," Boukerrouche added.

Demonstrations have erupted across the globe decrying racism and police brutality after the brutal death in the United States last month of Black American George Floyd.

In Paris, both of Saturday's protests were authorized by French authorities, who have been exercising caution over protests in recent weeks as the country emerges from coronavirus restrictions.

Other protests on Saturday in the French capital have, however, been banned, including an anti-racism demonstration near the U.S. Embassy by the Black African Defense League, and another protest linked to recent violence involving Chechens in the French city of Dijon.

Top US diplomat calls UN rights body 'a haven for dictators'

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the decision by the U.N.'s top human rights body to commission a report on policing and race amid international protests spurred by George Floyd's death "marks a new low" and confirmed the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the Human Rights Council in 2018.

The council agreed Friday in Geneva to commission a U.N. report on systemic racism and discrimination against Black people while stopping short of ordering a more intensive investigation singling out the United States. Floyd, a handcuffed Black man, died last month after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

In response, Pompeo on Saturday described the Human Rights Council as "a haven for dictators and the democracies that indulge them" and said the council should focus its attention elsewhere.

"If the Council were serious about protecting human rights, there are plenty of legitimate needs for its attention, such as the systemic racial disparities in places like Cuba, China, and Iran," Pompeo said in a statement Saturday.

Floyd's relatives, families of other victims of U.S. police violence and hundreds of advocacy groups urged the Human Rights Council to take up the issue.

A human rights group based in the U.S., Human Rights First, countered Pompeo's statement regarding Iran, saying that the council appointed an independent expert to monitor human rights in

that country.

The Iran monitor's Jan. 28 report expressed concern about deaths of protesters in detention, executions of underage defendants, forced confessions and discrimination against minorities and women.

The consensus resolution approved Friday followed days of grappling over language after African nations backed away from their initial push for a commission of inquiry, the council's most intrusive form of scrutiny, that would focus more on the U.S.

Instead, the resolution mentions historic racism in the U.S. but only calls for a more generic report to be written by the U.N. human rights chief's office and outside experts.

The aim is "to contribute to accountability and redress for victims" in the U.S. and beyond, the resolution states.

Health & Wellness

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COVID-19



AL SEIB/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Yadira Barajas walks with her children Owen Vargas, 11, and 6-year-old twins Madison and Madelyn Contreras, as they prepare for a flight to Mexico at Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport, which is requiring travelers to wear face coverings to help keep fellow passengers and crew safe by limiting the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19.

TIPS for going out again

If coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) stay-at-home restrictions are easing in your community, you might wonder how to visit public places and protect your health. Here's what you need to know.

Before you head out

Follow guidance where you live. In the U.S., activity restrictions vary among cities and states. Before you head out, check your city or state health department's website for information about local restrictions aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The best way to prevent COVID-19 is to avoid exposure. If you go out, wear a cloth face covering. Keep a distance of about 6 feet (2 meters) from others if COVID-19 is spreading in your community, especially if you have a higher risk of serious illness. Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick or has symptoms. Also, avoid large events and mass gatherings.

In addition, practice good hygiene. Wash your hands

often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. Also, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

If you feel sick, stay home. Don't visit public areas unless you're going to get medical care. Avoid taking public transportation if you're sick.

And if you're at higher risk of serious illness, don't head out into the community just yet. It's safer to stay home. If other members of your household return to work or visit places where social distancing isn't possible, it's recommended that they isolate themselves from you.

Safety tips for public places

Beyond taking general precautions to prevent COVID-19, consider specific safety tips for visiting different public places.

Traveling

Before traveling check the websites of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for health advisories and self-quarantine requirements. Consider checking the Transportation Security Administration's website and your airline's website for additional guidance.

Consider the risks associated with different types of travel. There might be a risk of getting COVID-19 on a crowded flight if other travelers on board are infected. On a bus or train, sitting or standing within 6 feet (2 meters) of others for a prolonged period can put you at risk of getting or spreading COVID-19. Traveling by car or recreational vehicle often involves stops that could put you in close contact with infected people.

If you're planning on booking a hotel room, check the hotel's website to learn about precautions being taken and if amenities, such as the gym or restaurant, will be open. Bring cleaning supplies with you. When you get to your room, disinfect all high-touch surfaces, such as light switches, sink faucet handles, door knobs and the remote control. Wash plates, cups or silverware before using. Also, confirm the hotel's cancellation policy before making a booking.



KEN LAMBERT/SEATTLE TIMES/TNS

Wearing gloves that are changed with every table seating, and armed with paper menus, Erica Bailiff works the hostess area at Ivar's Salmon House in Seattle, which has reopened at reduced capacity due to the coronavirus.

Restaurants

Before you go to a restaurant, check the restaurant's safety practices. Are the employees wearing cloth face coverings, regularly disinfecting high-touch surfaces and practicing social distancing? Is there good ventilation? Are tables set far enough apart from each other to allow for social distancing?

Ideally, the restaurant won't offer salad bars, buffets and drink-filling stations that require people to use common utensils or dis-

pensers. If you need to wait in line for service, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet (2 meters) from others.

When ordering takeout, try to pay online or over the phone to limit contact with others. If you're having food delivered, ask for it to be left outside your home in a safe spot, such as the porch or your building's lobby. Otherwise, stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from the delivery person. If you're picking up your food at the restaurant, maintain social distancing while waiting in the pickup zone. After bringing home your food, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

Gyms

Before going to the gym, call to see if it's limiting how many members are allowed in at the same time. You might have to reserve a block of time in advance, with staff cleaning the facility between blocks. Ask about the facility's cleaning and disinfecting policies and whether you'll be able to use the locker room or bathroom. If you are interested in group exercise classes, ask if they are being offered.

Your gym will likely enforce social distancing by blocking access to every other cardio machine. Follow the gym's guidelines and stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from other members. Clean equipment before and

after using it. Some equipment that's difficult to clean, such as foam rollers and yoga blocks, might not be available.

If you're at higher risk of serious illness, you might consider waiting to return to the gym. Ask if your gym offers virtual classes or training.

Salons

When making your appointment, ask about safety measures. You might be required to attend your appointment alone, wash your hair at home to reduce traffic near the shampoo area, and wait in your car or outside until your appointment begins. In addition, you might ask whether the salon is offering blow drying. Eliminating blow drying could reduce the spread of germs.

Ideally, the salon will stagger appointments to limit how many people are in the facility at the same time. You might ask about the salon's disinfecting practices. Is the staff regularly wiping down high-touch surfaces? Are chairs and headrests disinfected after they are used? Is the staff wearing cloth face coverings and regularly washing their hands? Are they wearing single-use gloves for nail and facial work? Also, look for touchless payment options.



AL DIAZ/MIAMI HERALD/TNS

Grocery shoppers are seen waiting in line outside the store and leaving wearing face masks at Trader Joe's at in Miami.

Grocery stores

Before going to get your groceries, consider visiting the chain's website to check on the precautions being taken. For smaller businesses, call the store.

To make social distancing easy, visit the grocery store early in the morning or late at night, when the store might be less crowded. If you're at higher risk of serious illness, find out if the store has special hours for people in your situation and shop during these times. You might also consider ordering your groceries online for home delivery or curbside pickup.

At the store, disinfect the handle of the



STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL/TNS

Guests stroll in front of stores at Disney Springs in Orlando on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Walt Disney World's sprawling shopping and dining complex is beginning the first phase of getting back to business, with 44 establishments welcoming the public during the coronavirus pandemic.

shopping cart or basket. Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from others while shopping and in lines. If possible, pay without touching money or a keypad or use hand sanitizer after paying. Also, apply hand sanitizer after you leave the store. When you get home, wash your hands.

Banks

During visits to the bank, use the ATM, if possible. Clean the ATM keyboard with a disinfecting wipe before using it. When you are done, apply hand sanitizer. Wash your hands when you get home.

Gas stations

Before pumping gas wipe down any handles or buttons you'll need to touch. After you finish fueling, apply hand sanitizer. Wash your hands when you get home or the next time you are near a sink.

Pharmacy

Plan to order and pick up all of your prescriptions at the same time. If possible, call in prescription orders ahead of time and use a drive-thru window, curbside pickup, mail order or other delivery service. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you can get a larger supply of medication so that you don't have to visit the pharmacy as often.

Massage therapy

Before having a massage, ask about what precautions your massage therapist is taking to prevent COVID-19. Ideally, the number of people in the space will be limited to allow for social distancing and you'll be able to check in and out using virtual tools.

Massage rooms, communal areas and any objects you might touch should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and sanitized. Ask about the laundry policy for linens, towels and other washable items. Massage therapists should follow hand-washing and hygiene protocols and use equipment to protect themselves, such as gloves and masks.

Parks and outdoor spaces

Before heading out, check with state and local authorities to see if parks, recreational facilities, natural bodies of water, beaches and swim areas are open. The National Park Service will decide on a park-by-park basis if a national park will open. If an area is going to be open, check if bathrooms and food concession stands also are open.

Choose a park that is close to home. Travel often involves stops, which can expose you to COVID-19. Keep space between yourself and others when using swimming pools.

While at the park, look for open areas, trails and paths that allow you to keep a distance of 6 feet (2 meters) from others. Avoid crowded areas.

As businesses continue to open, guidelines might change. Stay informed. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions. If you don't feel confident about a business's safety practices, postpone your visit. Protecting your health is worth it.

This article is written by Mayo Clinic Staff. For the latest updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. For more information and COVID-19 coverage, go to the Mayo Clinic News Network and mayoclinic.org.

Life & Style

Judge: Bolton can publish book despite efforts to block it

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former national security adviser John Bolton can move forward in publishing his tell-all book, a federal judge ruled Saturday, despite efforts by the Trump administration to block the release because of concerns that classified information could be exposed.

The decision from U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth is a victory for Bolton in a court case that involved core First

Amendment and national security issues, even as the White House pledged to keep pursuing the onetime top aide. And the judge also made clear his concerns that Bolton had taken it upon himself to publish his memoir without formal clearance from a White House that says it was still reviewing it for classified information.



Bolton

“Defendant Bolton has gambled with the national security of the United States. He has exposed his country to harm and himself to civil (and potentially criminal) liability,” Lamberth wrote. “But these facts do not control the motion before the Court. The government has failed to establish that an injunction will prevent

irreparable harm.”

The White House signaled the legal fight would continue, saying it would try to prevent Bolton from profiting off the book.

President Donald Trump tweeted that Bolton “broke the law by releasing Classified Information (in massive amounts). He must pay a very big price for this, as others have before him. This should never to happen again!!!”

In the meantime, though, the ruling clears the path for a broader election-year readership and distribution of a memoir, due out Tuesday, that paints an unflattering portrait of Trump’s foreign policy decision-making during the turbulent year and a half that Bolton spent in the White House.

Bolton’s lawyer, Chuck Cooper, applauded Lamberth for denying the government’s attempt to “suppress” the book. Publisher Simon & Schuster said the decision “vindicated the strong First Amendment protections against censorship and prior restraint of publication.”

While declining to halt the book’s release, Lamberth did suggest that Bolton may have left himself open to potential criminal prosecution by publishing classified information and that the government may prove successful in preventing Bolton from benefiting financially.

The White House indicated it planned to do exactly that, saying in a statement that the government “intends to hold Bolton to the further requirements of his agreements and to ensure that he receives no profits from his shameful decision to place his desire for money and attention ahead of his obligations to protect national security.”

Beyoncé drops surprise single ‘Black Parade’ on Juneteenth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyoncé did not let Juneteenth pass without dropping one of her signature surprises—a new single called “Black Parade.”

“I’m going back to the South, I’m going back where my roots ain’t watered down,” Beyoncé sings, opening the track. At several points on Friday’s release, the singer tells listeners to “Follow my parade.”

Proceeds from the song will benefit Black-owned small businesses, a message entitled “Black Parade Route” on the singer’s website said. The post included links to dozens of Black-owned businesses.

“Happy Juneteenth. Being Black is your activism. Black

excellence is a form of protest. Black joy is your right,” the message said.

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. While the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the South beginning Jan. 1, 1863, it wasn’t enforced in many places until after the end of the Civil War two years later. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn’t reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom



Beyonce

to Galveston, Texas.

“We got rhythm, we got pride, we birth kings, we birth tribes,” Beyoncé sings toward the end of the nearly five-minute song.

Juneteenth—typically a day of both joy and pain—was marked with new urgency this year, amid weeklong protests over police brutality and racism sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Beyoncé spoke out on social media in the wake of Floyd’s death.

“We’re broken and we’re

disgusted. We cannot normalize this pain,” she said in an Instagram video that called for people to sign a petition demanding justice for Floyd.

The singer also joined the call for charges against the officers involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor, who was gunned down in March by officers who burst into her Kentucky home. Beyoncé wrote in a letter Sunday to Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron that the three Louisville police officers “must be held accountable for their actions.” Cameron has asked for patience amid a probe, but Louisville’s mayor announced Friday that one of the officers would be fired.

South African choir adapts to COVID-19 by making new music

MOUTSE VALLEY, South Africa (AP)—The dusty streets of rural South Africa are a far cry from the bright lights of “America’s Got Talent,” but that’s where the members of the Ndlovu Youth Choir find themselves coping with the coronavirus pandemic.

With an electrifying mix of vocals and dance moves, the group made the finals of the U.S. television show last year. Sold-out performances across the U.S. and Europe followed, as well as a recording contract.

But COVID-19 halted their international tour and landed them back where they began, Moutse Valley in South Africa’s Limpopo province, one of the country’s poorest regions.

“We were supposed to go to Germany for a performance, but it got canceled. We are used to touring the world, doing shows everywhere, and during this corona time it’s been very difficult and frustrating,” said Sandile Majola, 26, a member of the chorus and its manager.

The virus has created new risks for singing together, but this “cultural catastrophe,” as one British arts group called COVID-19, is not stopping the young singers.

Ndlovu is the Zulu word for elephant, and like the pachyderm the choir members are showing determination to move forward.

The group was formed in 2008 to help orphans and children of HIV patients, said Hugo Tempelman, a Dutch doctor who 30 years ago started a medical clinic that has become a wide-ranging community development project, the Ndlovu Care Group.

The project had more than

600 child-headed households in the orphan and vulnerable children program, he said.

“We tried to assist those kids with food programs and tried to give them a more resilient way of surviving, through life skills,” Tempelman said.

He saw a bigger need for the children’s development.

“When I saw the kids go home, I still didn’t see a smile. And I thought that if we want to provide hope, we must give them something that they can be proud of,” he said.

He came up with the idea of a youth choir.

“Of course, you start a choir, because Africa sings,” he said. “Africa sings everywhere. They sing at a funeral, they sing at a birth. They sing their moods.”

In 2016 the choir became more professional with the help of donors. Two years later their rendition of the Ed Sheeran song “Shape of You” won them an audition on “America’s Got Talent” and their captivating performances skyrocketed them to fame.

The 38 young singers are used to overcoming adversity and, with Tempelman’s help, they are coming up with a new plan.

Pulling down his face mask, choir manager Majola described how all the singers, ranging in age from 13 to 26, have been tested for COVID-19 and have been cleared to sing together.

A recording and filming studio has been constructed at the community theater and they have begun rehearsing new material for an online show.

“We are getting together for the first time since lockdown started,” said Majola with excitement.

Deaths prompt Alaska officials to remove ‘Into the Wild’ bus

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An abandoned bus in the Alaska wilderness where a young man documented his demise over 114 days in 1992 has been removed by officials, frustrated that the bus has become a lure for dangerous, sometimes deadly pilgrimages into treacherous backcountry.

An Alaska National Guard Chinook helicopter flew the bus out of the woods just north of Denali National Park and Preserve on Thursday.

Christopher McCandless hiked to the bus located about 250 miles (402 kilometers) north of Anchorage nearly three decades ago, and the 24-year-old Virginian died from starvation when he couldn’t hike back out because of the swollen Teklanika River. He kept a journal of his plight, discovered when his body was found. McCandless’ story was first documented in Jon Krakauer’s 1996 book “Into the Wild,” followed by Sean Penn’s movie of the same name in 2007.

Over the years, the bus became a magnet for those wishing to retrace McCandless’ steps to the bus to pay homage. But the Teklanika River that prevented McCandless from hiking out also has



In this photo released by the Alaska National Guard, Alaska Army National Guard soldiers use a CH-47 Chinook helicopter to remove an abandoned bus, popularized by the book and movie “Into the Wild,” out of its location in the Alaska backcountry Thursday, June 18, 2020, as part of a training mission.

caused problems for people who came later on pilgrimages. Two women, one from Switzerland in 2010 and one from Belarus in 2019, drowned on such pilgrimages.

State officials said there have been 15 other search-and-rescue operations since 2009, including one involving five Italian tourists last winter, one with severe frostbite.

“We encourage people to enjoy Alaska’s wild areas safely, and we understand the hold this bus has had on the popular imagination,” Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Corri A. Feige said in a statement. “However, this is an abandoned and deteriorating vehicle that was requiring dangerous and costly rescue efforts, but more importantly, was costing some visitors their lives.”

In Alaska, the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting and preserving state land.

“I was stunned when Commissioner Feige informed me,” Carine McCandless, Christopher’s sister, said in an email to The Associated Press. “Though I am saddened by the news, the decision was made with good intentions, and was certainly theirs to make. That bus didn’t belong to Chris and it doesn’t belong to his family.”

The 1940s-era bus, sometimes called “Bus 142” or “The Magic Bus,” was used to house employees by the Yutan Construction Co. when it built an access road about 25 miles west of the Parks Highway, the main thoroughfare between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The National Guard named Thursday’s bus lift “Operation Yutan.”

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Grunge became gold Saturday as the guitar Kurt Cobain played on Nirvana's 1993 "MTV Unplugged" performance months before his death sold for an eye-popping \$6 million at auction.

The 1959 Martin D-18E that Cobain played in the band's rare acoustic performance and subsequent live album was sold to Australian Peter Freedman, owner of Rode Microphones, at the Music Icons event run by Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, California.

Cobain 'MTV Unplugged' guitar sells for sky-high \$6 million

The bids opened at \$1 million for the sale that ended up breaking several world records.

Cobain used it to play tunes including "About a Girl" and "All Apologies" at the Nov. 18, 1993, show in New York that came less than five months before the singer and songwriter died at age 27.

A day earlier at the same auction event, a custom guitar played by Prince at the height

of his stardom in the 1980s and 1990s sold for \$563,500, a small sum compared with the Cobain guitar but well over the \$100,000 to \$200,000 it was expected to fetch.

Prince played the blindingly blue guitar with the artist's "love" symbol on its neck beginning on the 1984 Purple

Rain Tour, as well as on the classic albums "Lovesexy" and "Sign O' The Times." He used it into the early 1990s.

Archivists going through Prince's possessions at his Paisley Park home and musi-

cal headquarters in Minnesota recently found the guitar that was thought to be lost during the four years since his death from an overdose at age 27.

Also Friday, a macrame belt that Elvis Presley wore about

30 times on stage brought in nearly 10 times its expected price, with a final bid of \$298,000, and an ivory gown worn by Madonna in her 1990 "Vogue" video sold for \$179,200.

'Chariots of Fire,' 'Lord of the Rings' actor Ian Holm dies

LONDON (AP)—Ian Holm, a versatile British actor whose long career included roles in "Chariots of Fire" and "The Lord of the Rings" has died. He was 88.



Holm

Holm died peacefully Friday morning in a hospital, surrounded by his family and carer, his agent Alex Irwin said in a statement. His illness was Parkinson's-related.

"His sparkling wit always accompanied a mischievous twinkle in his eye," Irwin said. "Charming, kind and ferociously talented, we will miss him hugely."

Holm appeared in scores of movies big and small, from costume dramas to fantasy epics. A generation of moviegoers knows him as Bilbo Baggins in "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies.

He won a British Academy Film Award and gained a supporting-actor Oscar nomination for portraying pioneering athletics coach Sam Mussabini in the hit 1982 film "Chariots of Fire."

His other movie roles included Father Cornelius in

"The Fifth Element," android Ash in "Alien," a smooth-talking lawyer in "The Sweet Hereafter," Napoleon Bonaparte in "Time Bandits," writer Lewis Carroll in "Dreamchild" and a royal physician in "The Madness of King George."

He was also a charismatic theater actor who won a Tony Award for best featured actor as Lenny in Harold Pinter's play "The Homecoming" in 1967.

He was a longtime member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, though a bout of debilitating stage fright that struck during a production of "The Iceman Cometh" in 1976 kept him off the stage for many years.

"I think it happens quite often to actors," Holm told the Associated Press in 1998. "They lose their nerve. They may think it's a crazy way to make a living, or whatever. I was fortunately gainfully employed in the other media. I could have frozen in front of a camera, and I would have had to become a chimney sweep or something."

Hollywood evolves during pandemic with drive-in premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dave Franco says the drive-in premiere for his directorial debut was "perfect" but admittedly "a little weird."

The 35-year-old actor found himself at the center of Hollywood's evolving response to the coronavirus pandemic Thursday as he premiered his directorial debut "The Rental" to more than 1,300 people at the Vineland drive-in theatre in Southern California.

Joined by stars including wife Alison Brie, Dan Stevens and Sheila Vand, he took off his mask to pose for photographers in the center of a massive parking lot, then answered questions via Zoom from his car after the

film ended.

It beat a traditional, more buttoned-up red carpet event, Franco said.

"It didn't feel like there was a spotlight on me or the cast. It felt more like this communal experience where everyone was just excited to get out of their homes and, you know, let loose with a group of fellow movie lovers. It was perfect," he said in an interview Friday.

Franco says Brie calmed him down about the shortcomings of an outdoor screening: patchy audio over the FM radio and ambient light drowning out darker sections of his horror thriller "The Rental."

"Trust me, it is not what I do. I am a crazy perfectionist. I

annoy everyone around me because I won't stop until it's perfect. And so it was hard for me to let go, but it was nice having Alison next to me—she forced me to let go," he said.

His movie is set to be released via video-on-demand and at drive-ins and traditional theaters on July 24. But the nation's largest theater chains have been adjusting their reopening plans regularly in response to health officials. Franco says that like many in Hollywood, he's tracking Christopher Nolan's "Tenet," scheduled for release July 31.

"Obviously that's the giant movie that everyone's focused on and that all the theaters are really trying to open in time for that film. So we've just

been kind of stepping back and monitoring ... If they're not opening for 'Tenet,' they ain't opening for us. ... I'm happy to creep behind Christopher Nolan all day."

Franco is hoping to hold another premiere event closer to the film's release—maybe even in a traditional theater. There's something about the big screen.

"Just seeing how many people are flocking to drive-ins around the country, it just proves that the movie-going experience is so special," Franco said. "There's a lot of talk about the future of film being mainly digital. But I think right now we're really seeing how much people love going to the movies."

Cardinal Pell to publish prison diary musing on case, church

ROME (AP)—Cardinal George Pell, the former Vatican finance minister who was convicted and then acquitted of sexual abuse in his native Australia, is set to publish his prison diary musing on life in solitary confinement, the Catholic Church, politics and sports.

Catholic publisher Ignatius Press told The Associated Press on Saturday the first installment of the 1,000-page diary would likely be published in Spring 2021.

"I've read half so far, and

it is wonderful reading," Ignatius' editor, the Rev. Joseph Fessio, said.

Fessio sent a letter to Ignatius' email list asking for donations, saying Ignatius wanted to give Pell "appropriate advances" for the diary to help offset his legal debts. The publisher envisages putting out three to four volumes and the diary becoming a "spiritual classic."

Pell served 13 months in pris-



Pell

on before Australia's High Court in April acquitted him of molesting two choirboys in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne while he was archbishop of Australia's second-largest city during the 1990s.

In the diary, Pell muses on everything from his conversations with lawyers about his case to U.S. politics and sports and his reform efforts at the Vatican. He wasn't allowed to

celebrate Mass in prison but on Sundays reported watching an Anglican choir program and offers an appraisal "generally positive, but sometimes critical also" of two U.S. evangelical preachers, Fessio said in an email.

Pell had long insisted he was innocent of the molestation charges and he suggested his prosecution was linked to his fight against corruption in the Vatican, where he served as Pope Francis' finance czar until he took a leave in 2017 to face trial.

Widower grasps for ways to fill void left by wife

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful wife just passed away from ovarian cancer. She was only 48. She was my perfect life partner for 28 years and everything in the world to me. We shared every day together. I didn't have any hobbies or guy friends; all I ever wanted was to be with her.

I'm not asking for help with grief, as there is no getting over what happened. But I became so emotionally dependent on her that I find myself like an addict in withdrawal. Because of this, I'm afraid I will appear to be desperate if I even talk to another woman. I need someone in my life. I just don't know how to get from hollow to whole again.

Please help me figure out how to let someone know I would be a good and faithful partner without hanging a sign around my neck that says "Desperate!"

IN NEED OF SOMEONE

DEAR IN NEED: Allow me to offer my deepest sympathy for the loss of your beloved wife, but please don't jump the gun. Before searching for another wife, it's important you figure out the boundary between where you left off and your wife began.

While the closeness you shared was a special gift, I urge you to allow yourself time to heal from this great loss. By that, I am not implying that you should go into seclusion.

Quite the contrary. But instead of searching for someone to fill the hole in your life, it would be healthier to start by looking for friends. Friends are easy to talk to, and from friendships deeper relationships develop.

Explore activities that interest you, whether they be sports-related, continuing your education, the arts, volunteer work. If you get stuck, ask for a referral to a grief support group or a therapist. You WILL get through this, but it will take time for the ache to subside. Have faith, accept it, go slow and you won't regret it.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancé, "Jay," has a 14-year-old daughter who has been home-schooling during the quarantine, and she refuses to put pants on. When we ask her to, she gets upset. She isn't built like the average teenager. Abby, she's 5'10" and weighs 200 pounds, so it's like seeing a grown woman in her underwear.

I think it's inappropriate for a young woman her age to be unwilling to dress herself fully, and I don't like seeing her like that every time I go to their house. Jay doesn't notice. He says it doesn't bother him, and he doesn't mind when I ask her to put shorts on. I don't feel it's my place at this point to dictate what she wears, but I'm uncomfortable. I don't know if I'm crossing a line or if it's normal to feel this way. Help!

DIDN'T THINK I WAS A PRUDE

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



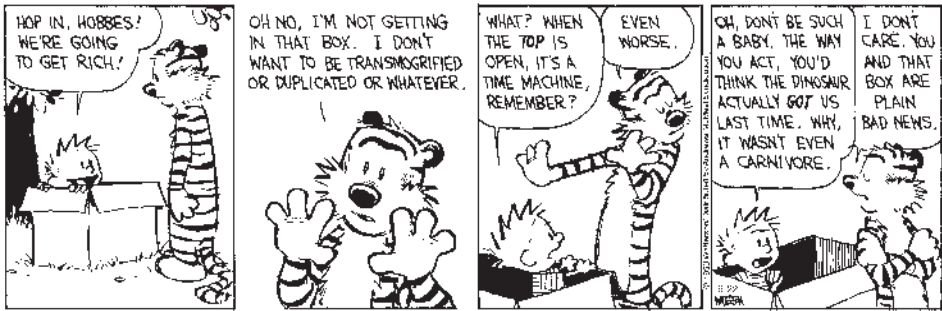
DEAR DIDN'T: Your fiancé is OK with his daughter's attire in their home. If your engagement to Jay leads to marriage, you will be living there permanently, so your opinion should be respected. Someone has to have "the talk" with your fiancé's daughter about the fact she's no longer a child; she has become a young woman. The person to do that is her father. The message would be better coming from him because you're not her parent, and it may help you avoid being perceived as the "wicked stepmother-to-be."

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

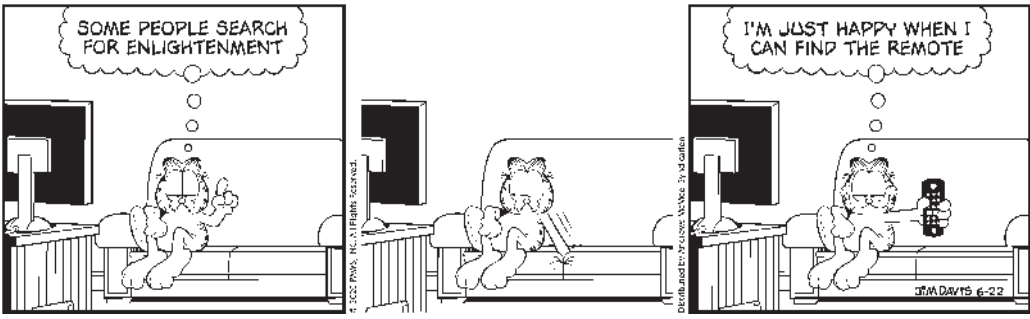
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Sly 36 Actor — Lee Jones 5 Away 37 Deli meat from NNE 40 Debtor's note 8 Locale 41 Genesis garden 12 Chinese city 42 World of organized crime 14 Last write-up 47 Chinese dynasty 16 Dweeb 48 Female protagonist 17 Cold and damp 49 Race place 18 Overacts 50 Three, in Rome 20 Heat to near boiling 51 Russian refusal 23 Consider 32 Marshy area 24 Not that 34 Kate of "The Martian"

DOWN 1 Designer monogram 2 "Eureka!" 3 — de mer 4 Tangles 5 "Pygmalion" writer 6 — Diego 7 Innocent 8 California wine region 9 "A likely story!" 10 Exhaust 11 LAX postings 13 Pleased 19 Blend 20 Cardinal cap 21 Enjoy gum 22 Staffer 23 Soft 25 Small candle 26 Linguist Chomsky 27 Campus digs 29 Slender 31 Remit 33 Nasal-sounding 34 — Rouge (Paris cabaret) 36 Takeout request 37 Big rig 38 Tennis score 39 Give temporarily 40 Concerning 43 — Lingus 44 Whatever number 45 Born 46 Summer

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 06/22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carson Daly, 47; Cyndi Lauper, 67; Meryl Streep, 71; Todd Rundgren, 72.

Happy Birthday: Try something new. Research the possibilities. Consider signing up for an online course that will help put your talents and skills to good use. Turn the time you spend at home into magical moments with loved ones. How you treat and respond to others will reveal what you can expect in return. Couple giving and taking with love and gratitude. Your numbers are 5, 19, 22, 28, 30, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work hard, play hard and live life your way. Refuse to let emotional issues grow out of proportion or cause setbacks. Address issues head-on, put the past behind you and prepare to make the most of your day. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You know the drill. Hop to it, and stay on course. Set high standards and goals. Reach for the stars, and refuse to let anything come between you and what you are trying to achieve. Think big, but remain practical. Trust your intuition. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Everything will fall into place if you take your time, pay attention to detail and proceed with tunnel vision. Don't let outsiders interfere when what's essential is obtaining your goal and finishing on time. Commit yourself. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at your options, and consider the best way to use your skills to excel. Financial opportunities look promising and will encourage you to make personal changes. When it comes

to important decisions, don't let your emotions drive you. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stand up and be counted. Don't make changes for the wrong reason or because someone is pressuring you to do so. Proceed with consistency, a steady pace and the intent to do your own thing. Personal improvement will draw attention. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A demonstrative approach will help you bring about positive change. Contact people you have worked alongside and trust for advice that will help you reach your goal. The information you gather will be valuable to you as you move forward. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't labor over what you cannot change. Strive to improve your life. Build a daily routine that includes taking better care of yourself. Staying healthy should be a priority. If you want to look amazing, healthy eating and fitness matter. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll pick up information quickly, but before you apply what you hear, verify the facts offered. An opportunity is within reach; if you give an idea, you have a unique spin. Do things differently, and it will set you on the road to success. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Physical work will be satisfying as well as productive. A chance to make extra cash will open up if you offer something that others want. Building something unique can be fun and lucrative if you use your imagination. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): People who offer mental stimulation and sensitivity toward something you care about will attract you. Working in conjunction with like-minded people will help you bring about change. Implement a domestic shift that will add to your comfort and relieve stress. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look in the mirror, scour your surroundings and start the task of decluttering and clearing a path to personal and domestic freedom. The physical change brought about through hard work and dedication will improve your life. Commit yourself. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Research before you start something new. Knowing what you are up against and how best to put your ideas into play will make it easier to implement change. A personal victory will be yours depending on the way you handle matters. Speak up. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, affectionate and opportunistic. You are imaginative and perceptive.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GEOLOGY OF MARS Solution: 9 letters

T M A F H T O P O G R A P H Y
Y E R O T I S O T O P E A E Y
T T E R R E S T R I A L R S T
I A O M A C A N O B I Y I I S
C L L A E L E R A G R S S L U
O S O T F W I S N T R I E I D
L T G I T G A M S A Y U N C E
E L Y O I L E I H E T M I O Z
V E N N T N M T L O O R N I
R H S N T E R E P A I N O R T
E C R S H A E I C A D S L O E
P S O C N R A L O P R I H B N
Y R O U G R A B E N S S C L G
H E L L A S P L A N I T I A A
G H F E L D S P A R S S R A M

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Acidalia, Albor, Alignments, Areology, Aris, Arsia, Basalt, Chlorine, Dusty, Earth, Elysium, Feldspar, Flat, Floors, Formation, Geochemistry, Grabens, Greeley, Hellasplanitia, Herschel, Hypervelocity, Isotope, Lunar, Magnetized, Mars, Metals, Mons, Newton, Origin, Polar, Silicon, Terrestrial, Tharsis, Topography, Utopia

Last Friday's Answer: Unusable

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NBA locks in key dates for draft, free agency



NEW YORK

(AP)—The NBA has firmed up the schedule for what will be a hectic time for teams this fall, deciding on Oct. 16 as the date for this year's draft and saying clubs can begin talking to free agents two days later.

The annual moratorium will begin at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Oct. 19 and continue through noon on Oct. 23, the league told teams on Saturday in a memo obtained by The Associated Press.

As was the case last season, teams and free agents can begin negotiating six hours before the moratorium—so 6 p.m. EDT on Oct. 18.

It could be a wildly busy few days in October for the NBA. If the schedule for the restarted season at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex at the Disney campus near Orlando, Florida, goes as planned, Game 7 of the NBA Finals could be held on Oct. 13, followed by the draft three days later and then free agency almost immediately following.

By setting the draft date, the NBA also firmed up Aug. 17 as the early entry deadline and Oct. 6 as the early entry withdrawal dates.

The league also clarified the procedure for teams should any need arise to replace a player who either was excused from participating in the restart, would be protected from playing for health reasons or chose to not play.

Starting July 1 and going through the end of the seeding games, expected to be Aug. 14, substitute players can be signed to take the place of someone who falls into those categories. If a player tests positive for coronavirus after the seeding games end, teams would still be allowed to replace them—but only with someone who has three years or less of NBA service.

And if a player—excluding two-way players—refuses to participate in games at Disney, he would lose about 1.1% of his salary for every game missed. That would be capped after 14 games, or roughly 15.1% of the player's contract. Players who are excused or protected from participating would not be subject to lost salary.

Teams will also be able to sign players to rest-of-season contracts, when eligible, starting Tuesday and continuing through June 30.

Agents caution players

Many NBA players and even the league itself are discussing the best ways to contribute to the fight against racism that is gaining momentum in the



In this Oct. 29, 2018 file photo, Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, center, shoots over Chicago Bulls forward Justin Holiday, left, and Zach LaVine during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago.

United States.

But not everyone wants to race full steam ahead.

League sources said that several agents have advised their clients against forcefully speaking in support of the social justice reform movement, out of concern that it could scare off some teams looking to avoid controversy.

Good agents will give their clients comprehensive and accurate advice then let the clients decide for themselves how to proceed. If speaking out can hurt their careers, players should be made aware of that.

Players should also consider that agents (like everyone) have biases. Agents get a percentage of salary, not a direct cut of social justice achieved.

Assuming their advice is honest... Are these agents conveying a legitimate fear? Or are they being overly cautious?

Colin Kaepernick remains out of the NFL. The NBA still has a rule against kneeling during the national anthem. When Daryl Morey tweeted support for Hong Kong protesters (who are trying to maintain and expand their freedoms), Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta quickly distanced the organization and LeBron James criticized Morey.

On the other hand, Fertitta more staunchly defended Morey's right to speak out recently. The Knicks faced criticism

for not releasing a statement in the aftermath of George Floyd's death. Even President Donald Trump, whose wrath teams feared crossing, has shifted his tone on Kaepernick. The middle is shifting toward having these conversations.

Yet, to a certain degree, it doesn't matter whether NBA

teams would avoid players who speak out. The fear alone is chilling.

When Avery Bradley raises grievances with how the NBA operates, this fits right in. The league can clearly do more to make players feel comfortable speaking on these important issues.

Thompson medically cleared

Klay Thompson has reached the next phase of his return.

The Warriors star guard has been training without restriction on his knee and has been ramping up workouts over the past few weeks, The Athletic's Anthony Slater reported Fri-

day, citing sources.

Per Slater, Thompson's knee was medically cleared a few weeks ago and he has been running, jumping, dunking and doing everything he's permitted to do during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He's been going through his diligent shooting workouts but has yet to return to the Warriors' San Francisco facility since it reopened. Thompson instead has been working out in Los Angeles and in Oakland.

As of right now, players only are allowed to work out on one hoop with one coach and that coach must wear gloves. There are no three-on-three or five-on-five scrimmages allowed.

While Thompson's knee has been cleared, he now must take the time to build the rest of his body back up to NBA standards. With the 2020-21 NBA season expected to get going sometime in December, Thompson should have ample to time to get back into game shape.

Thompson was playing arguably the best basketball of his career when he tore his left ACL during Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals. While the injury robbed Thompson of a year of his prime, his recovery, along with Steph Curry's broken hand—allowed the Warriors a year to rest and reset their dynasty after five straight trips to the NBA Finals.

MLS to kick-start season in July with five subs



FLORIDA

(AP)—Major League Soccer coaches welcome the chance to use five substitutes when play resumes in Florida next month, out of concern for both the conditioning of the players and the demands of summer heat.

The adoption of the rule and the expansion of game-day rosters are especially important given the relatively short preparation teams have had for the MLS Is Back Tournament, which starts July 8 at the sports complex at Walt Disney World.

Teams were able to go to full training on June 4, provided local jurisdictions approved. But some teams in states or communities with more strict stay-at-home orders were already behind in returning to practice.

Also a factor is the heat and humidity in the Orlando area,

and the different start times in place—early morning and night games—to offset the weather's impact.

The heat, combined with limited training, can mean that players are more susceptible to injury.

"I think you're just going to have to, at times, be prepared to use a full complement of your roster," Sporting Kansas City coach Peter Vermes said. "And especially depending on how your games are coming, because you may have a game at 8 o'clock at night and the next game might be at 9am."

"So, again, those time differences are going to be a big change, too. We'll have to function and make solutions for that. Having the full complement of your roster—the great thing is that we'll have access to it. Now, it's just a matter of keeping the guys healthy."

The International Football Association Board, which

sets soccer's rules, agreed to let teams globally use two extra substitutes per match for the remainder of the year because of the coronavirus pandemic. FIFA had requested the change because schedules will likely be more congested as teams try to make up for lost time.

"Matches may be played in a condensed period in different weather conditions, both of which could have impacts on player welfare," IFAB said of the temporary rule.

The German Bundesliga, the first major international league to return to play, was the first to use the new rule. The Premier League, which resumed play this week, also allows for five subs.

The rule allows teams to make five changes in a 90-minute game, and a sixth in extra time. Teams can stop play only three times during the 90 minutes to make changes. The rule is in place until Dec. 31.

MLS teams will also be allowed to expand game-day rosters to 23 players.

Nashville coach Gary Smith said stopping play just three times should help maintain the flow of games.

"If you've got five substitutions, it's not going to be very enjoyable for the viewer to see constant changes that just disrupt the flow of the game. So the three breaks in the game and five substitutions make a lot of sense," Smith said.

But some said five substitutions can be too many.

"When you change five guys, it could take the team from being in sync to just completely out of sync. And I believe that will be something that ought to be really calculated and measured as a staff when we make those decisions," Vermes said. "But some of the (subs) may just be forced upon us because guys physically just may not be able to function."

MLB spring training sites close amid virus worry



NEW YORK

(AP)—Every team in Major League Baseball will shut its spring training camp over concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, a move that came in the wake of the Philadelphia Phillies announcing Friday five players had tested positive for COVID-19.

The closures come while MLB owners and players try to negotiate a deal to begin the season, and raise the possibility the virus outbreak could scuttle all attempts at starting up this year.

A person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press the spring complexes in Florida and Arizona will temporarily close because of recent events. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there wasn't an official statement.

The facilities will undergo a deep cleaning and disinfecting. No one will be permitted back inside without a negative test for the virus.

Soon after the Phillies became the first known team to be affected by the outbreak, Toronto shuttered its site in Dunedin, Florida, about five miles from Philadelphia's camp in Clearwater. The Blue Jays said one player showed symptoms consistent with the virus.

The San Francisco Giants' facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, was shut after one person who had been to the site and one family member exhibited symptoms Thursday. Texas closed its camp about 30 miles away in Surprise, saying no one had tested positive but that it wanted to expand testing protocols.

Also, the Houston Astros said a player working out at their spring camp in West Palm Beach, Florida, tested positive several days ago and was recovering. The Astros said they "implemented all health and safety protocols" but didn't say the camp was closed.



In this March 4, 2020 file photo, New York Mets' Brandon Nimmo follows through on a swing off a pitch from St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jack Flaherty during the first inning of a spring training baseball game in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Stuck in a bitter fight over money, owners and the union had hoped to have players begin testing Tuesday and then start a second round of spring training by next weekend. Most teams had anticipated holding those workouts at their home ballparks, rather than at their spring camps in Florida and Arizona.

Earlier this week, Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem wrote in a letter to players' union chief negotiator Bruce Meyer that "the proliferation of COVID-19 outbreaks around the country over the last week, and the fact that we already know of several 40-man roster players and staff who have tested positive, has increased the risks associated with commencing spring training in the next few weeks."

Regarding the implications

of the outbreak on the season, the Phillies said "it is too early to know."

The Phillies said three staff members at the camp also tested positive. The team didn't identify any of those affected.

Florida has experienced rising incidents of new cases and rates of those testing positive for COVID-19. Over the past two weeks, the rolling average number of daily new cases in Florida has increased by 1,422.7, or 144.4%.

Yankees, Mets to train in New York

The Yankees and Mets would train in New York if MLB and its players try to start the coronavirus-delayed season.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo made the announcement Saturday, and the teams confirmed the decisions. The Democrat said

he would like to stop by to see them training.

"I think New York now is especially attractive, compared to the other states, because we have such a low transmission rate, and this is a state that is ready, willing and able to partner with sports teams so that they can play," Cuomo said.

The Yankees originally had intended to base at their spring training complex in Tampa, Florida, instead of Yankee Stadium. The Mets had said they were undecided between Citi Field and their training camp in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Florida at first appeared preferable because the complexes have more fields.

But positive cases for COVID-19 in Florida have increased markedly in recent days, while the percentage

of positive tests in New York City has dropped sharply. New York City is set to enter phase two of reopening on Monday, allowing stores and outdoor restaurant seating to reopen with social distancing.

"To have spring training in New York, that is a really great development," Cuomo said. "It's where I think they should always be, obviously. But in a bleak time, and in a season that obviously has had significant hurdles to deal with, to have a spring training quick camp in New York, that is the first bit of really good news when it comes to baseball that we've had in a long time."

No counter-offer

Days after MLB and the MLB Players Association appeared to make progress in talks to reopen the 2020 season,

they've officially reached another stalemate.

MLB informed the union that it will not make a counter-offer after the union proposed a 70-game schedule earlier this week.

League officials plan to huddle with owners this weekend to decide the next course of action. That could include commissioner Rob Manfred implementing a 50- or 60-game schedule. The union confirmed it has been informed that MLB will not agree to a deal that goes beyond 60 games.

The exchange concludes what may have been the most tumultuous week during talks to reopen the season. And that's saying a lot given how contentious the relationship has become over the last two months.



HILTON HEAD

ISLAND, S.C.

(AP)—The PGA

Tour's return to

competition has

brought together the strongest fields of the year on courses that have not been overly punishing, and the result is the same.

It's another free-for-all at the RBC Heritage.

Webb Simpson practically had to apologize for a 3-under 68, in which he managed just one birdie on the back nine. He was part of a four-way tie for the lead, and that was good enough for him. He also knows good probably won't cut it Sunday at Harbour Town.

"It's not like I've got a three- or four-shot lead and

4-way tie for lead at Heritage as wild finish looms

could shoot a couple under," he said. "It's going to take a good one."

Tyrrell Hatton had one of six rounds at 63, giving the 28-year-old from England a share of the lead as he goes for his second straight victory, albeit three months apart because of the shutdown from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Abraham Ancer, so solid with his irons, had a 65 and joined the lead along with Ryan Palmer, who had a 66.

They were at 15-under 198, a number that didn't even start to explain the low scoring.

Even with Jordan Spieth and Xander Schauffele sputtering

to 75s, the field was 223-under par, the lowest for any round since the RBC Heritage began in 1969. There were 35 players at 10 under or better, compared with only one player (Dustin Johnson) a year ago. The previous mark was seven players at double digits under par through 54 holes.

Most telling were the opportunities on Sunday.

There were 21 players separated by just three shots going into the final round. A week ago at Colonial, there were 14 players separated by three shots.

"I think the fields have been extremely strong," Ancer said. "Everybody out here was just

eager to come out and play. The greens are a little bit soft, especially this week, and the ball isn't really rolling out as much as you're used to on the greens and on the fairways. That's yielding a little bit more birdies, for sure."

Carlos Ortiz, who started this tournament with two double bogeys after playing only five holes, suddenly has a chance to grab his first PGA Tour victory after two eagles in a round of 63. He was one shot behind, along with Colonial winner Daniel Berger and Joel Dahmen, both with 63s.

And there was more testing than usual.

Players and caddies on the

charter flight to Connecticut for next week's event had to take a saliva test Saturday for the coronavirus before they can get on the plane. Eleven others had testing Friday night because they were deemed to have been in close contact with Nick Watney, whose positive test on Friday was the first in golf's return.

Among them was Sergio Garcia, who flew with Watney from Austin, Texas. The initial test was negative. Garcia was nervous as he waited for the result, though not so nervous he couldn't put down a 65 to join the chase. He was two shots behind, along with Ian

Poulter and Joaquin Niemann.

Bryson DeChambeau, starting the day one shot behind, hit his approach into the par-5 second in the trees and it never came down. He has added 40 pounds of mass, still not enough to uproot the tree and shake it loose. That led to a bogey, and more damaging was no birdies on the back nine for a 70.

Even so, he remained three shots behind in a group that included Johnson, who birdied three of his last four holes to go from around the middle of the pack to 12-under 201, three shots behind and very much in the picture. That's all it took Saturday, and it likely won't be any different in the final round.

49ers player tests positive for COVID-19



CALIFORNIA (AP)—An unidentified San Francisco 49ers player has reportedly tested positive for COVID-19 after an informal workout with teammates in Tennessee.

The NFL Network reported Friday that one player who took part in the workouts this week in Nashville has tested positive. All the players who were there will now get tested to see if there is any spread.

The team declined to comment, citing federal and state privacy laws about the personal health of employees.

Several 49ers players have been working out this week in Nashville while team facilities are shut down because of the pandemic.

Quarterbacks Jimmy Garoppolo, Nick Mullens and C.J. Beathard, star tight end George Kittle, fullback Kyle Juszczyk, and receivers Ken-

drick Bourne, Deebo Samuel, Trent Taylor, Dante Pettis and Brandon Aiyuk are among the players who were on hand.

Meanwhile, the New England Patriots are offering season ticket holders at an elevated risk of COVID-19 infection the chance to skip the 2020 season entirely and still hold onto their seats for the next year.

The policy appears to be the most generous—or perhaps cautious—yet announced by an NFL team in response to the coronavirus pandemic, going beyond the league's blanket offer of a full refund for games not played and allowing fans to opt out in advance "if because of age or an underlying health condition (they) are in a population the CDC has identified as being at higher risk of illness from COVID-19."

"By completing this agreement now, your seat location will be protected for the 2021 season," the Patriots said in an email to

season ticket holders this week. A copy of the email was obtained by The Associated Press.

Typically, fans who cancel their season tickets lose the chance to buy those seats in future years and are replaced by someone on a waiting list, if there is one. The Patriots, who have won six Super Bowls since 2001, have a wait list with tens of thousands of names, many of whom have waited a decade or more for the chance to buy tickets.

Patriots spokesman Stacey James would not elaborate on the policy, saying the team would let the letter speak for itself.

Other teams contacted by the AP said they had not arrived at a similar policy, with some noting that the timeline and path of the disease is unpredictable. Many extended their payment deadlines because of the economic fallout of the pandemic; the Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs say on their website

that they "would be happy to assist you and discuss arrangements for your season tickets" if fans are having trouble paying for them because of COVID-19.

But even teams that have struggled to fill their stadiums might not be as worried as usual about selling tickets in 2020. Most sports that have returned to play in the U.S. and elsewhere have done so without fans or with restricted capacity, including NASCAR and the PGA Tour.

The NHL and NBA are making plans to sequester their teams in a "bubble" or limited number of hubs and play in empty arenas to minimize the chance of an infection seeping into their leagues. Major League Baseball, which was in the middle of spring training but had not begun its regular season when the country went into isolation in March, is mired in a labor battle over the conditions—and

finances—of a return.

The NFL was in its offseason when the shutdown occurred, and it has not had to make any major changes to its schedule yet. The league typically opens training camps in July, with exhibition games in August and the regular season starting in September; it announced its full 2020 schedule in May, as usual.

"We remain optimistic for the return of football and we are preparing to play each home game as scheduled in front of our Season Ticket Members this fall," the Patriots wrote their season ticket holders. "We will do so in full compliance with the NFL and all government regulations and will rely on the advice of medical and public health professionals to maintain the safety of our fans, players, and personnel."

In other news, Dalvin Cook logged off last week from virtual team activities with the Minnesota Vikings, no longer

willing to participate until he has secured a new contract.

Cook's situation is the latest standoff of sorts between an NFL team and a star running back, with the possibility of several more in the coming year in a league that has steadily driven down the financial value of the position.

The Vikings, though, have made no secret of their desire to make Cook the centerpiece of their offense. It's difficult to envision them not eventually striking a deal with a player they've frequently praised for his work in the backfield, in the locker room and in the community. Cook was the only player pictured on a promotional graphic the team created earlier this spring for the release of the 2020 schedule.

"I consider Dalvin as one of those core group of players that we definitely want to try to keep," general manager Rick Spielman said earlier this offseason.

'THE CRANK'

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continued to pursue him and connected a couple more left hooks before going for the killer punch that had Camacho nearly falling to his right. Camacho then dodged two more punches from Jaynes, but appeared wobbly, and as he tried to keep his ground and fight back, the third man on the ring pulled Jaynes away, signaling the end of the bout.

Some MMA pundits claimed Dean pulled the plug on Camacho early, while the ever-humble Marianas warrior accepted his fate.

"Hats off to my opponent for the amazing win. I am beyond sad for this loss, I did not put on the performance I wanted and trained for," said Camacho in his social media post after the defeat.

"I am thankful for the experience to fight again. I have so much gratitude to the people who supported me in this fight. I am looking forward to getting back there, unlocking and seeing what I can do better, staying positive, and moving forward," said the 31-year-old fighter, who sustained bumps on his lower right eye and chin.

Last weekend's bout was



Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, is hit by Justin Jaynes during the opening minutes of their lightweight bout in the UFC Fight Night 173 yesterday at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the first in Camacho's new four-fight deal with UFC. He was supposed to have his season-opener in April against Brazil's Alan Patrick "Nugette" Silva Alves in Nebraska, but the event was shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then last month, Camacho was put in the fight card for the Las Vegas event with Frevola as his opponent. However, Frevola was eventually taken out of the competition, as his cornerman tested positive for COVID-19. Jaynes took Frevola's spot and delivered in his UFC debut despite the short notice.

PROUD

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knowledge that their stint with the national team gave them sort of a pass to the collegiate ranks. Tenorio after debuting with Suffolk, is moving to Warner Pacific University, while Podziwski will stay with the Rams. Borja will start her first season with Navarro College in Texas, Austria will

also have his rookie year with Trine University in Indiana, while Race played for Saddleback College in California.

Podziwski said that their time with the CNMI national team and the opportunities to play outside of Saipan against semi pro and pro players and some of the best players from bigger countries helped them prepare for the high-level competitions in college.

"You're not intimidated that much because you know you are trained to play against tough players," Podziwski said.

Borja added that the routines they learned while playing for the CNMI national team made them adjust better to the collegiate ranks.

"When we had the training camp for the national team, we used to have this eat, sleep, soccer, and repeat routine. It's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this undated file photo, Dai Podziwski, third left, and Guine Borja, fifth left, pose with their Paire Football Club teammates and coach Patricia Coleman, right, during a break in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Youth Festival at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2010 file photo, the CNMI's Enrico Del Rosario, right, and Jireh Yobech defend against a Macau player during their game in the EAFF U15 Football Festival at the Leo Palace Resort Field in Guam.

basically the same discipline in college plus you have your school work," said Borja, who was part of the CNMI Women's National Team that won back-to-back against Guam in the Marianas Cup.

Meanwhile, for players wishing to jump to the collegiate ranks, Race encouraged them to start their recruitment

process early to get better offers and opportunities. If players don't make it to the school team, Race told them not to be discouraged and instead try to play for a club.

"School clubs have strong teams, too. I saw one beating a regular college team in a scrimmage. Your goal is to stay in school and still play

soccer, you have a lot of options," said Race, who played for the CNMI Women's National Team that earned a historic win in 2014 against Macau and was the youngest player (14 years old) on the Commonwealths squad which saw action in the 2013 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round 1 in Guam in 2012.



NBA locks in
key dates for
draft, free
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

Proud products of NMI soccer

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

From wearing a generic green uniform to donning the CNMI colors, and now a collegiate jersey.

That's how Sunjoon Tenorio summed up his soccer journey, as he and five other Commonwealth players emerged as proud products of the Northern Mariana Island Football Association's grassroots program. Tenorio, Guine Borja, Gabi Race, Enrico Del Rosario, Dai Podziewski, and Thaiphi Austria joined NMIFA Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario in last Saturday's airing of *Footcast with Norman* and discussed how their games have evolved from just being an active kid wanting to run around the American Memorial Park to mainstays of the CNMI national team and now as college players.

"I don't remember the name of my team, but I remember wearing a green uniform when I started playing soccer when I was just 6 years old," said Tenorio, who had an impressive debut in collegiate ranks with Suffolk University, as he was named



Rookie of the Year and Team MVP of the NCAA Division III school.

Enrico Del Rosario, who once played for Alderson Broaddus University in the NCAA Division II and is now with Northern Kentucky University FC and in the Gotham Soccer League in Cincinnati,



Del Rosario



Austria



Tenorio



Race



Podziewski



Borja

'The Crank' absorbs quick loss to UFC newcomer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, faces Justin Jaynes during the weigh-in last Friday for their lightweight bout in the UFC Fight Night 173 at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada. Also in the photo is Ultimate Fighting Championship president Dana White, center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho's last-minute opponent proved to be a quick finisher.

Justin Jaynes, who replaced Matt "The Steamroller" Frevola in the fight card three days before the UFC Fight Night 173 unfurled at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada, handed Camacho a beating just 41 seconds into their lightweight bout yesterday. Jaynes unleashed a flurry of punches with the deadliest one, a big right that hit Camacho's left temple and forced referee Herb Dean to intervene, as the Marianas pride was visibly shaken, but tried to keep his balance while he appeared to be still going after his foe. However, Dean waved off

Camacho, giving Jaynes a rousing UFC debut win.

The victory was the fifth in a row for Jaynes and third straight TKO, while Camacho absorbed back-to-back losses and dropped to 2-5 at UFC and 22-9 overall. The 30-year-old Jaynes improved to 16-4 and gained his eighth victory via TKO.

A known slugger, Jaynes went after Camacho right at the opening buzzer, but the latter seemed ready and counter-punched. After a brief exchange, Camacho backpedaled, while Jaynes remained aggressive and his solid left upper cut hit the Team Oyama standout on the chin. Camacho retreated to the fence, while Jaynes

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also had the same experience, as he recalled wearing a yellow uniform when he played at the AMP with a bunch of kids when he was 8.

Norman Del Rosario then explained that during the early years of soccer in the CNMI, there's no club system and players were usually sponsored by private companies and had basic uniforms. When NMIFA was founded in 2005, the club system was implemented with Tenorio and Enrico Del Rosario becoming among the stalwarts of MP United, Borja, Podziewski, and Race playing for Paire, and Austria suiting up for TanHoldings.

The six players grew up to become regulars in the NMIFA Youth League and other side tournaments and eventually suited up for the CNMI national team, as they represented the islands in East Asian Football Federation and Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned competitions.

Tenorio and company ac-
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